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Gauhati HC rejects anticipatory bail to Congress functionary Pawan Khera in forgery and criminal case lodged by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife Riniki, says custodial interrogation necessary

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin **Netanyahu (76) says he received successful treatment for early-stage prostate cancer**, without specifying when treatment took place, P 17

An internal **Pentagon email outlines options for US to punish Nato allies** it believes failed to support US operations in the war with Iran, including suspending Spain, P 17

A **US army soldier**, Gannon Ken Van Dyke, involved in capture of Nicolas Maduro has been **charged with using sensitive info and making $400,000** by betting on removal of the ousted Venezuelan leader, P 17

3 college staff held over sacred thread row at CET

Krupanidhi PU College Friday suspended three employees for allegedly asking CET aspirants to remove their sacred thread before entering the hall. The accused were questioned and subsequently arrested. Higher education minister MC Sudhakar termed the incident unfortunate. P 8

Schizophrenic teen stabs sis to death

A 16-year-old boy diagnosed with schizophrenia was charged with culpable homicide after fatally stabbing his sister while imitating a sword-fighting video he saw on his cellphone. P 22

War impact: RIL Q4 profits drop 9%

Reliance Industries Ltd posted a 9% drop in its quarterly profit on Friday, as surging crude prices driven by the West Asia conflict hit its core oil-to-chemicals division. P 19

'Will govt challenge discharge in blasts?'

Noorul Huda Samsudoha, among nine discharged in the 2006 Malegaon blasts case in 2016, asked if the govt would challenge the latest HC discharge of 4 people as in their case. P 22

Injured Alcaraz pulls out of French Open

Carlos Alcaraz won't play for a third successive French Open title due to a right wrist injury. No. 2-ranked Alcaraz was injured at the Barcelona Open this month during his first-round win. AP

Big blow to AAP as Chadha, 6 more RS MPs quit, join BJP

Meet 2/3rd Threshold Of Defection Law

Kumar Rakesh & Ambika Pandit

New Delhi: Seven of the 10 Rajya Sabha MPs of AAP, including Raghav Chadha and ex-international cricketer Harbhajan Singh, joined BJP on Friday, in a jolt to the party ahead of next year's election in Punjab, the only state where it is in office. This comes at a time when former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has intensified his campaign against BJP after his discharge in the excise policy case.

FULL COVERAGE: P 16

Others who crossed over are Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, estranged party functionary Swati Maliwal and Rajendra Gupta.

Raghav was joined by Mittal, who had replaced him as AAP's deputy leader in Rajya Sabha only three weeks back, and Pathak at a presser where he dropped the bombshell and accused his former party of being in the grip of "corrupt and compromised" people after being founded on an anti-corruption plank in 2012.

The group meets the two-thirds threshold laid down under the anti-defection act to merge into another group without disqualification, though AAP said it would seek their disqualification.

"We, the two-third MPs belonging to AAP, exercise the provisions within the Constitution of India and merge ourselves with BJP," he said, adding that they had submitted a letter to this effect earlier in the day to RS chairman C P Radhakrishnan. The development came amid BJP leadership's intensive campaign in West Bengal against AAP's ally, Mamata Banerjee, underlining its equal focus on the upcoming political challenges. The three MPs later met BJP president Nitin Nabin.

The bunch, G-7 as they were being referred to in political circles, attracted a volley of accusations of "betrayal" from Kejriwal, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, leader of AAP in Rajya Sabha Sanjay Singh and others.

▶Personal interest, P 16

> AAP has **completely strayed from its principles** and moral values. This party now does not work in national interest but for personal benefits. I do not want to be part of their crimes
> —RS member **RAGHAV CHADHA**

Photo: IANS

(L to R) Pathak, Mittal, Nabin and Chadha at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday

> Ever since strict laws against 'beadbi' (sacrilege) were passed, BJP's unease has become clearly visible and is unable to tolerate it... It is resorting to underhand tactics... **These people are 'gaddars'. They got positions on a platter** without facing the electorate. But they have no future in BJP and will fade into oblivion —Punjab CM **BHAGWANT MANN**

15% SC internal quota gets nod, K'taka govt to fill 56k jobs soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Karnataka cabinet Friday approved internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) within 15% quota, clearing the ground for resuming the recruitment process for 56,000 govt posts.

After a special cabinet meeting, CM Siddaramaiah announced the new formula of 5.25% each for Left and Right groups (Category A and Category B) and 4.5% for touchable communities and others (Category C). "With this, the recruitment process (on hold since Feb) will restart immediately," he added.

The CM said the party has ticked another box, as internal reservation was part of Congress manifesto for the 2023 assembly elections.

In Feb, governor Thaawarchand Gehlot approved 17% SC quota, but the govt chose to downscale it to 15% after some groups approached court. Earlier, the govt had finalised 6% each for Category A and Category B, and 5% for Category C.

SLICES OF PIE

- **Left (A): Madigas, and 15 other sub-castes** with highest population, lack equitable representation and access
- **Right (B): Holeyas, 19 other sub-castes**; slightly better off with political representation
- **Touchables (C): Korcha, Korma, Bhovi & Lambanis** most progressive in edu and wealth
- **Nomadic, semi-nomadic: 63 communities**, least political representation, educationally backward, low in population

▶Decision unanimous, P 4

20 get life term for lynchings over 'child-lifter' rumours in Assam

Guwahati: A court in Assam on Friday sentenced 20 people to life for the lynching of two friends in Karbi Anglong hill district in 2018, a case that triggered nationwide outrage over mob violence fuelled by rumours.

Sound engineer Nilotpal Das, 29, and businessman Abhijeet Nath, 31, were dragged from their car and beaten to death on June 8, 2018, after villagers in Karbi Anglong's Panjuri suspected them of being child kidnappers. The two had visited a picnic spot, 180km from Guwahati, and were returning when the mob stopped them. Nagaon district sessions judge DJ Mahanta, who handed down the sentences, had on Monday convicted the 20 under various IPC provisions. TNN

▶'Will move HC', P 11

'Not' added: SI gives twist to elopement case

Acting on "instructions of senior officers in elopement cases involving minors", a sub-inspector allegedly altered a woman's testimony by inserting the word "not" in her statement to falsely claim her elopement was without consent, leading to her lover's arrest, **reports Krishna Chaudhary**. SI Sanjeev Kumar of Shahjahanpur, UP has been suspended after a court-ordered probe. The woman, in video testimony, said she eloped willingly. She and her lover are in their 20s. P 10

3 killed, 5 wounded in fresh clashes in Manipur

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Three persons — one Tangkhul Naga and two Kuki-Zo — were shot dead, and at least five other Kuki-Zo, including women, were injured in two separate gunfights between rival Naga and Kuki groups in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday morning.

Simultaneously, an NSCN faction, the NSCN (Aleng Group), claimed to have killed five members of Myanmar's Kuki National Army-Burma in Kamjong district. No official confirmation of this claim was immediately available.

IANS

A woman receives the body of her relative killed in firing on April 7

Manipur police said three persons were killed in a heavy exchange of fire at Mullam village. "Security measures have been stepped up to prevent any further escalation," they said.

▶4 volunteers injured, P 13

HC: India secular, but can't ban dharmic events

Bengaluru: India is a secular country, but it does not mean dharmic and cultural activities cannot be entertained, Karnataka HC has observed, **reports P Vasantha Kumar**. It made the observation, setting aside a city corporation's order that denied permission to Malleshwaram Brahmana Sabha for holding Shankaracharya Jayanti at one of its auditoriums. The corporation said the auditorium cannot be utilised for dharmic activities.

▶Not prohibited, P 4

Iran fgn min reaches Pak, US to send Kushner, Witkoff for talks

US President Donald Trump is sending his envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Pakistan, the White House said Friday, just hours after Iran's top diplomat headed to the South Asian nation where officials have been trying to get US and Iran to convene for a second round of ceasefire negotiations.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: P 17& 18
▶ India procuring LPG cargo through spot purchases, P 15

The trip comes as much of the world is on edge over a war that has snarled crucial energy exports through the Strait of Hormuz, clouded the global economic picture and left thousands dead across West Asia.

> **On N-strike:** Why would I use a nuclear weapon when we've, in a very conventional way, decimated them without it? A nuclear weapon should never be allowed to be used by anybody
>
> **On Iran deal:** I have all the time in the world, but Iran doesn't — the clock is ticking! —Donald Trump

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in an interview on Fox News Channel that the two will have talks with Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday. "We're hopeful that it will be a productive conversation and hopefully move the ball forward to a deal," Leavitt said.

She said vice-president J D Vance would not be traveling but that he remains "deeply involved". She said he will be in the US, along with secretary of state Marco Rubio and the president's national security team, on "standby" to fly to Pakistan "if necessary". Earlier Friday, Araghchi wrote on X that he was on his way to Pakistan, Oman and Russia on a trip focused on "bilateral matters and regional developments". AP

▶Related report, P 17

Bangalore Times

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A

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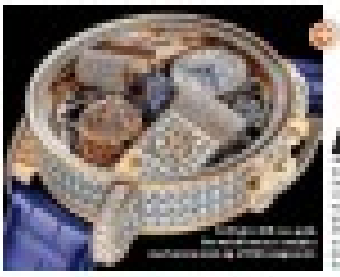

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Monet painting sells for record $12M in Paris

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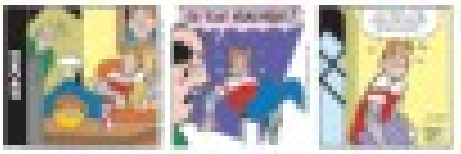

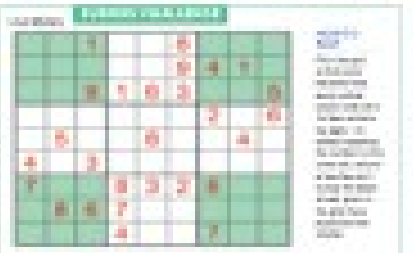

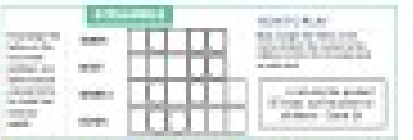

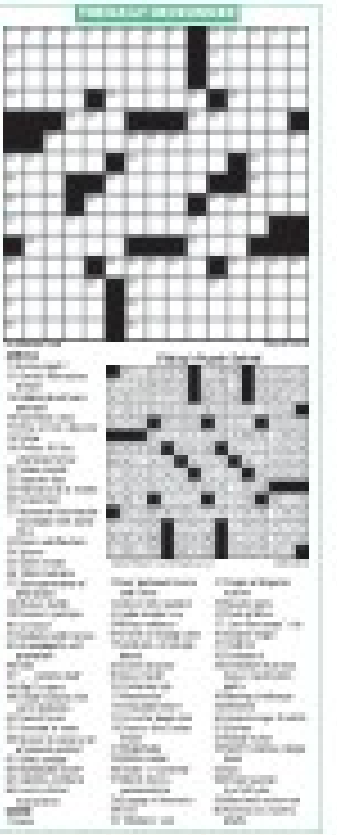

RISING HEAT DRIES UP LAKES

Don't worry, it's natural reset, say activists

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Bengaluru: With temperatures in Bengaluru crossing 35°C over the past week, several lakes across the city have dried up completely, while others have seen water levels drop by as much as 4-5 feet. While this may appear alarming amid concerns of a looming water crisis, lake activists say the phenomenon is natural — and, in fact, an opportunity to restore the city's waterbodies.

Activists point out that most lakes in Bengaluru are seasonal, not perennial, and are expected to dry up during peak summer. They argue this annual cycle plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, allowing lakes to reset before they fill up in monsoon again.

Raghavendra Pacchapur, a lake activist from south Bengaluru, said, "Lake drying in summer is a natural ecological reset, but what we are seeing now is concerning because urban pressures and poor maintenance are compounding the problem. This is the best time to remove plastic and waste from lakebeds — once monsoon arrives, that opportunity will be lost."

TOI

ANNUAL CYCLE: Experts say lakes drying up in summer is the best opportunity to carry out desilting, remove plastic & waste

Echoing similar views, Ram Prasad from Friends of Lake said, "The real problem is when we artificially keep lakes filled, which leads to pollution and even 'dead lakes'."

Balaji Raghotham, another lake activist from eastern part of the city, said, "In east Bengaluru, lake water levels have dropped by nearly 8 to 9 feet. While water in lakes is crucial for groundwater recharge, this process gets affected if silt is not cleared regularly from the lakebed. Summer is the right time to take up desilting work as it improves percolation during rainy season. At the same time, developing wetlands around lakes is equally important because they support the ecosystem and help lakes function more sustainably."

Abhijit, a resident of Kasturinagar, added, "When the lakebed dries and gets exposed to sunlight, it helps break down contamination and improves the lake's ability to recharge during rains. While traditionally this silt will benefit farmers, in Bengaluru, there is a concern that sewage contamination may limit its safe use."

Experts also caution against artificially maintaining water levels in lakes through treated water inflow, noting it can disrupt natural cycles and accelerate pollution if not properly managed. Allowing treated water can also affect the quality of soil/silt on the lakebed, which can't be used for farming.

No dedicated department to oversee lake management?

When the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was in charge of the city's civic administration, there was a dedicated lakes department with a commissioner and a specialised team overseeing lake management and related works.

Following the formation of Greater Bengaluru Authority, responsibility for lakes has been decentralised to individual city corporations. With no department exclusively handling lakes now, residents have to rely on their respective corporation helpline numbers to raise complaints related to lake maintenance.

Man, 53, tries to remove beehive, dies atop tree

Ranganath K | TNN

Chikkaballapura: A risky attempt to remove a massive beehive without protective gear cost a 53-year-old man his life at Kambathanahalli in Manchenahalli, Chikkaballapura district. Sanaulla ventured out Wednesday night to clear the hive from a tamarind tree, reportedly to facilitate sale of its yield.

Locally known for extracting honey, Sanaulla climbed the tree without any safety equipment.

The hive, measuring nearly six feet, triggered a severe bee attack. The incident came to light when Sanaulla's wife alerted friends after failing to contact him over the phone.

During the search, Sanaulla's slippers were found near the tree, and his body was later spotted atop it. "With no protection, Sanaulla suffered multiple stings on his body, particularly on the face, leading to his death atop the tree," an official said.

Fire and emergency services personnel retrieved his body the next morning after a prolonged operation. The district reported at least three cases of bee attacks over the past two days, though none resulted in serious injuries or casualties, police said.

Druggists' body raises concern over counterfeit med batches

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Bengaluru: Two days after the Haryana Food and Drug Administration (FDA Haryana) identified certain spurious batches of drug Mounjaro Kwik Pen, a city-based druggists' body flagged concerns on certain suspected batches of the drug out in the market here.

The association suspects batches of 2.5mg, 5mg, 7.5mg, 10mg, 12.5mg and 15mg of Mounjaro, made in 2025 with expiry date of July-Sept 2027, to be spurious

Mounjaro KwikPen is a multi-dose, pre-filled injection device used as a medication prescribed for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and chronic weight management. A 2.5mg batch of the drug has a maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs 13,125, with the 15mg version costing Rs 27,500.

The Bangalore District Chemists' and Druggists' Association (BDCDA) instructed all pharmacists in the city to stop selling six batches of the drug suspected to be spurious. "Counterfeit, spurious and substandard medicines are not merely regulatory violations, they pose a serious threat to public health, patient safety and the national economy," BDCDA president B Thirunavukkarasu said.

Retail and wholesale traders have been instructed to suspend sale and distribution of the mentioned batches, quarantine any available stock, report any issues to the Drug Control Authorities and to purchase medicines strictly from jurisdiction-based authorised stockists/licensed distributors only.

"Once a patient begins to doubt the quality of a medicine, every subsequent dose is taken with fear, uncertainty and distress... Commercial gain must never be allowed to override professional ethics and human responsibility. Any suspicion of counterfeit medicines must be acted upon immediately," the association said in a letter to dealers in the city.

NIAS launches heritage-mapping portal

Bengaluru: Marking the first death anniversary of space scientist and former ISRO chairperson K Kasturirangan, National Institute of Advanced Studies Friday launched KASTURI portal, a national digital platform for mapping and documenting India's cultural heritage.

The portal stands for Knowledge-base of Archaeology and Heritage using Spatial Technologies: Unified Resource for India (KASTURI). It integrates satellite imagery, GIS data, archival records and field documentation into a unified spatial framework.

Designed to move beyond monuments, KASTURI maps cultural landscapes, including temples, forts, settlements, water systems and historic routes — many outside protected zones.

The initiative aims to support researchers, planners and conservation authorities, said MB Rajani, who leads the project.

—Naid Ganadhal

₹10cr worth of white-topping work on 500m rd delayed, affects biz

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Bengaluru: A project that was promised to be completed in six months has stretched into a year-long inconvenience in Jayanagar. The delayed white-topping project on a major stretch between 3rd and 4th blocks of the south Bengaluru locality has left traders and residents struggling with reduced access, declining business and an all-round mess.

TOI

Citizens are complaining of reduced access and dust because of work on the commercial stretch between Jayanagar 3rd and 4th Blocks

JAYANAGAR MARKET

Shivanand Naik, who runs a juice shop in Jayanagar 3rd Block, said the delay has affected his business as there are fewer pedestrians. "My business has gone down by around 50%. The situation worsens when it rains. We hope the project is completed at least before monsoon," he said.

Residents say the prolonged pre-construction phase has turned everyday movement into a challenge. With accessibility hit, several businesses report a sharp drop in footfall. A roadside vendor, who did not wish to be named, said work began in March 2025 in 4th Block. "I remember because I lost my mother during the same time. A lot of shoppers face inconvenience as footpaths there are in shambles. We are told there will be more digging on the other side as well," he said.

Piles of debris and construction material have become informal dumping spots. Shop owner and longtime Jayanagar resident Jyothi Srinivas said: "People from nearby restaurants dump their garbage in the open, and such spots become breeding grounds for rodents. It has caused a rat infestation in our shop."

Jayanagar MLA C K Ramamurthy assured that the road will be ready in three months. "White-topping work will begin in a month. A major power line needs to be shifted, which is causing the delay. We discussed this at a recent meeting, and work to shift the line will begin this week," he said.

The Rs 10-crore project on the half-km stretch is being executed by Nagarjuna Construction Company, the MLA added.

Apart from this, white-topping work on three other roads in Jayanagar has also been planned. "White-topping project on Diagonal Road from 3rd Block to RV Road has been tendered. Maiya's hotel road (30th Cross) and 36th Cross will also be white-topped," Ramamurthy said.

Men in swanky cars refuse to pay toll fee, assault staffer

Bengaluru: Three men travelling in a BMW and a Toyota Fortuner allegedly assaulted and briefly abducted a toll plaza employee at Kadathanamale gate near Rajanukunte, north Bengaluru, after refusing to pay the fee.

The accused claimed they were associates of a local MLA and forced their way through the barrier early Friday. Rajanukunte police registered an FIR, following a complaint by 18-year-old Druva, a toll collector.

According to the complaint, the BMW (KA-51 MR-7090) and the Fortuner arrived at the toll plaza from Doddaballapura side. When Dhruva asked for toll, the occupants reportedly became aggressive, stating they had no FASTag or cash and dropped the MLA's name. They punched Dhruva in the face and kicked him, the complaint said.

When Dhruva's colleague Deekshith rushed to his aid, the gang forcibly bundled Deekshith into the BMW. They assaulted him and pushed him out of the moving vehicle. The incident has been captured by CCTVs. Cops are searching for the accused. TNN

Mario's immortal works to be celebrated on his centenary

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Art lovers and cartoon buffs are in for a nostalgic treat as the centenary of **Mario Miranda** will be celebrated with a special exhibition from May 2 to May 23 (10am to 6pm) at the Indian Cartoon Gallery on MG Road.

Organised by Indian Institute of Cartoonists (IIC), the exhibition will feature more than 110 of his works, including beloved characters like Miss Nimbupani and Miss Fonseca.

Known for his witty, richly detailed and often humorous portrayals of everyday life, Mario brought cities and their people alive on paper. He had a long-standing association with The Times Group: his works appeared in The Times of India and The Illustrated Weekly of India.

"Mario was the first person to support the establishment of IIC, and he became a patron too," said VG Narendra, founder and managing trustee of IIC. Recalling Mario's connection with Bengaluru, he said, "There was an exhibition of his works in 2009 here. He also worked with Dom Moraes on 'The Open Eyes: A Journey through Karnataka,' a book commissioned by state govt." Artist Paul Fernandes said, "It is great to be celebrating Mario's works. He captured the essence of life in big cities across the world."

Lift malfunction at club leaves lawyer seriously injured

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A dinner outing turned into a nightmare for a lawyer after a malfunctioning lift at a club led to serious injuries following a fall. The injured — Ramesh K, a resident of Kamakshipalya — visited Chord Road Residents' Association Club in Vijayanagar on April 16, along with some friends. They went to a restaurant on the terrace around 7.45pm.

After finishing their meal, they went to the fourth floor at 10.30pm. While a couple of them opted to use the stairs, Ramesh and another friend stepped into the lift.

As the lift moved between the fourth and third floors, it suddenly lost power and came to an abrupt halt mid-air. Trapped inside, the two endured 10-15 minutes of panic as the lift began jerking violently, repeatedly attempting to restart. Ramesh alleged there was no emergency alarm system, no trained operator and poor mobile network connectivity. Struggling to breathe, the duo shouted for help. Eventually, Ramesh managed to contact one of his friends.

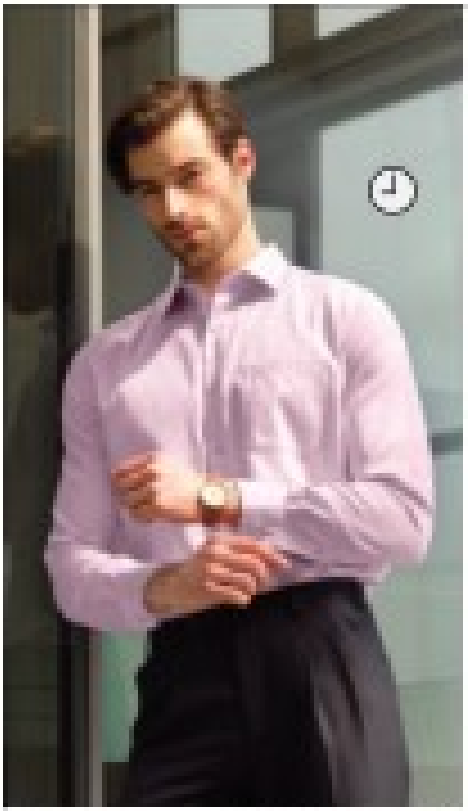
As the lift continued to shake, showing signs of a possible crash, people outside rushed to help. In a desperate rescue attempt, they forced open the lift doors halfway and first pulled Ramesh's friend out. However, in that critical moment, the lift jolted violently again. Ramesh lost balance and fell through the gap from the lift cabin down to the ground floor.

He sustained serious injuries, including fractures to his left hand, fingers, leg and hip, along with facial injuries and broken teeth.

Ramesh accused the club management and lift maintenance staff of gross negligence. Govindaraja Nagar police registered a case and served notice on the club management.

Woman's iPhone snatched

Bengaluru: A late-evening outing on April 20 turned into a distressing ordeal for a 30-year-old private firm employee after bike-borne miscreants snatched her phone near Biere Club on Lavelle Road on April 20. Roopa (name changed) stepped out with her friend after dinner at a cafe around 10.52pm. The two were waiting for a cab at the intersection when the miscreants snatched Roopa's iPhone Pro-17 (worth around 1.3 lakh) and sped away. TNN



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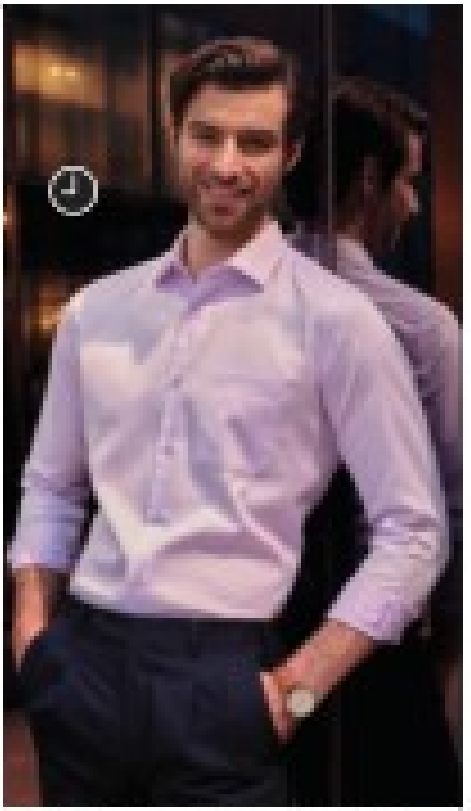
PARK AVENUE



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MY FAVOURITE RECIPE

COSY SUMMER EVENING: Lissiue with her husband Noel Reuben

BREAD PUDDING
A Quick Comfort Dessert

Lissiue Maria

There are some people who don't just cook, they create magic in the kitchen. Growing up, my mother was exactly that kind of wizard. Every evening, as we returned from school, there would be something new waiting for us. Some days it was chilled chocolate biscuit roll, on others sandwiches, cookies, pakoras, or even puddings. No two days felt the same. Those evening snack times were never just about the food, but also about sharing stories, who got in trouble with whom and gossip.

And anytime she heard guests were on their way, she would effortlessly put together a freshly baked treat in no time, with whatever she found in the kitchen.

A year ago, I found myself in a similar situation. I had to host, but the kitchen was running low on ingredients. Looking around, I spotted some leftover bread, and of course, living on a farm, we always have milk and eggs. What came together in those few minutes turned out to be one of the simplest and most delicious desserts I've made, and it quickly became a go-to recipe at our household.

Bread pudding is incredibly versatile. It takes just about 10 minutes to prepare and 20 minutes to bake.

INGREDIENTS

- Bread (pav/brioche) – 8 heaped cups /400g (cut into 1-inch cubes)
- Milk – 2.5 cups/ 590 ml
- Eggs – 4
- Sugar – 1/2 cup / 100 g
- Vanilla essence – 1 tsp
- Melted and cooled butter – 1/3 cup / 80 g
- (Optional: cinnamon powder, raisins, chocolate chips)

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 180°C for 15-20 minutes.
- Cut or tear the bread into 1-inch cubes and place in a large bowl.
- In another bowl, whisk together milk, eggs, sugar, vanilla essence, and half of the melted (cooled) butter.
- Pour this mixture over the bread and let it sit for 5 minutes so the bread absorbs the liquid.
- Transfer to a greased 9×9-inch baking dish or scoop into a cupcake or muffin tray.
- Drizzle the remaining melted butter over the top.
- Bake for about 20–25 minutes at 180°C, until golden on top and slightly jiggly in the centre.
- Brush a little butter on top once out of the oven (optional) and let it rest before serving.

SERVING SUGGESTIONS

- Serve warm with ice cream, custard, or chocolate/caramel sauce.
- Pair with fresh fruits like berries or mangoes for breakfast.
- Dust with icing sugar and enjoy with evening coffee or tea.

Lissiue is a psychologist and home baker. She lives in CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru

NO LONGER PILLION
B'luru's women bikers build sisterhood on two wheels

HANDS-ON TRAINING: Women learning how to ride a motorcycle at a two-day workshop in Tumakuru

Chitrangada.C@timesofindia.com

Ranjitha Prabhakar decided to change gears after turning 40, moving from the pillion seat to riding a rugged adventure motorcycle. Her journey underlines a larger movement playing out on Bengaluru's roads. Heavy bobbers, tourers and cruisers, weighing anywhere between 175 and 360 kg, are no longer intimidating women, many of whom are finding their rhythm on two wheels.

"Riding gives you a sense of freedom," says Ranjitha, capturing the pulse of what is increasingly becoming a movement.

"I was always passionate about biking, but I tried to play it safe and rode scooters instead," says the mother of a seven-year-old, adding turning 40 changed her. "I told myself, this time I'll definitely do it." Her resolve was supported by her husband, Deepak N, who gifted her a Royal Enfield motorcycle for her birthday.

Riding gives you a sense of freedom. —Ranjitha Prabhakar | 40

Conquering fears

For many women, initiation into riding motorcycles begins with structured training, part of a growing ecosystem enabling first-time women riders. Held over two days at a campsite near Tumakuru, these workshops are designed to ease women into motorcycling in a controlled, supportive environment.

At Nomadic Soul, where Ranjitha trained, the focus is as much on building confidence as on technique. The adventure company holds women-only camps.

Fear, often the first barrier, is a massive block, says Yudhishtir Urs, co-founder and head of expeditions at Nomadic Soul. "The very thought of learning to ride a motorcycle is mostly discouraged," he adds, pointing to the perception of motorcycling as dangerous and unnecessary. "We wanted to create a safe space where women can feel like, yeah, I know I'm scared, but still, I can go for it and overcome that fear." For Ranjitha, that fear was specific. "My fear was about control and balance — what would happen if suddenly I applied the brakes? I was worried I'd fall." That hesitation is familiar to many women who enter riding circles in the city.

When spirits soar high

Rakshita Adyanthaya, 41, who has not only hit the roads with her friends but has also been part of riding groups that buzz by the city outskirts on weekends, says riding has always been tied to a sense of independence.

For her, motorcycling is less about speed and more about the space it creates mentally.

"While driving, you are always surrounded by people, or you are listening to something. But when you are riding,you listen to yourself a lot," she says.

Riding in a pack

Once the first layer of fear is crossed, the journey often widens into something more social. Riders move from training grounds to neighbourhood roads, and eventually into weekend rides, breakfast runs and long tours. In many cases, the community becomes the strongest support system.

On most weekends, groups of women set out early, riding 80–120 km out of the city along routes like Nandi Hills, Devanahalli or towards Penukonda, before stopping for breakfast at roadside cafés or local eateries. What begins as a ride often turns into hours of conversation, shared stories and laughter. Beyond the city runs, many also sign up for multi-day trips across South India or bucket-list expeditions to Ladakh and Lahaul-Spiti. Over time, these shared journeys create a strong sense of sisterhood — a network where riders look out for each other, celebrate milestones and grow together on and off the road.

My Xpulse is tall. Initially, I rode around my house and avoided routes with U-turns, but now I take it anywhere in the city! The fear is gone. I have gone on long rides. I went to the Rann of Kutch with my friends. **Revathi Rajeevan** | 32

Rakshita says group rides bring structure, safety and companionship. "When you go in a group, everything is taken care of," she adds.

That sense of support is part of what has helped the women's riding scene expand in Bengaluru. Several collectives in the city, including Enfield Riders and Heels on Wheels, organise rides, train new riders and create spaces where women can meet others with the same passion.

Women-only riding groups and social media have played a key role in connecting women, sharing routes and encouraging first-timers.

"A lot of women tend to pick up things when they see other women do it," says Revathi Rajeevan who owns an Xpulse. "Otherwise, women are conditioned to grow up in a certain way, where they are told what girls should do or shouldn't do. To break that conditioning, sometimes seeing another woman do it helps. The visibility and awareness and social media have helped a lot of women break their conditioning. Furthermore, people around are also more accepting."

Come weekends, the highways around Bengaluru are increasingly dotted with women riders heading out together — stopping for tea, sharing route maps, taking pictures of their bikes and building friendships along the way.

Rakshita recalls a trip from Mysore to Goa. "The weather was nice, so it was good." Her long-ride memories are part of a growing culture.

At homes, too, the shift is symbolic; Ranjitha's husband, once the rider, now occasionally takes the pillion seat. "Though he is scared to sit behind me," she laughs.

It is a small reversal, but one that captures a larger change. In Bengaluru, women are not just taking to the roads. They are building a community around the ride— one meetup, one weekend run and one open highway at a time.

Motorcycling is all about the mental space it creates. While riding, you listen to yourself. The freedom, solace and me time that riding offers is unparalleled. Riding with friends has transformed me inside out. Being part of a riding community provides you a sense of safety and security. When you go alone, even a breakdown could ruin your journey. But when you are going in a group, all that is taken care of. —Rakshita Adyanthaya | 41

RPF finds bag with ₹5L worth of jewellery, returns to passenger

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: While leaving Krishnarajapuram railway station Wednesday afternoon after seeing off his wife, 32-year-old Vijay Kumar thought everything was fine. However, his wife, who had boarded MGR Chennai Central-Sainagar Shirdi Superfast Express, left behind a trolley bag at the railway station with jewellery worth Rs 5 lakh.

The train left Krishnarajapura at 3.55pm and headed towards Yelahanka. "Around 30 minutes later, my wife told me she'd left behind the bag at the platform. I immediately headed back to the station," Vijay said.

Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel spotted the blue-coloured bag on a bench while inspecting platform no. 4. The team alerted the railway station ASI and security checks were carried out.

The bag was brought to the RPF office and kept in safe custody. "Vijay's wife requested that it be handed over to her husband. Accordingly, at 8pm, Vijay reached the office from his MEG Layout residence and provided details of the bag. His identity and claim were verified and confirmed by his wife," an RPF officer said.

The bag contained clothes, two gold chains weighing 35 grams and a pair of gold earrings.

This is the third such incident in Bengaluru where bags containing valuables worth lakhs of rupees have been left behind by passengers in trains and stations this year.

What's not prohibited is permitted: Court

▶ Continued from page 1

Bengaluru West City Corporation had said Yoga Auditorium in Sankey Tank Park cannot be utilised for dharmic activities as it was meant for yoga and related events.

Stating Shankaracharya Jayanti is not only dharmic but also a cultural activity, Justice MI Arun said "what is not prohibited is permitted". The petitioner argued that govt had been permitting several activities in the auditorium and there were no strong grounds to reject its request. The corporation submitted the auditorium is "generally" not given for religious and political activities.

Justice MI Arun said the corporation has not been able to produce guidelines or regulations stipulating the purposes for which the auditorium can be utilised. "Shankaracharya is one of the most revered Acharyas and his Advaita philosophy is one of the foremost philosophical traditions of the country. Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti has to be considered both Dharmic and cultural," the judge added.

Further, the court said, the greatness of Indian civilisation is intertwined with its Dharmic and cultural activities and removing it amounts to removing the soul from the country. The Constitution of India itself contains pictures of seals from the Indian civilisation, a gurukul — an integral part of the Indian education system — Ramayana, Bhagavad Gita, Gautama Buddha and the like.

"Thus, the celebration of Indian culture, which is intertwined with Dharma, can never be considered as illegal or unconstitutional," the judge further said.

Girl dies of strangulation after makeshift swing turns noose

A nine-year-old girl lost her life after a makeshift swing accidentally turned into a noose on April 20.

The victim, Pranamya, was spending summer vacation at her aunt's house in Lakkinakoppa, Shivamogga district. Pranamya was playing alone in a room. She reportedly locked the door and using a lungi/panche, made a makeshift swing. While playing, the cloth loop tightened around her neck, leading to accidental strangulation.

When her family didn't hear any sound from the room, they opened the door and found her in an unconsciousness state. They took her to a hospital where she was declared dead. Her father had left the family seven years ago and her mother works as a coolie. TNN

Cabinet decision on internal reservation unanimous

▶ Contd from page 1

A dispute arose after some members belonging to nomadic groups moved court. "We recently constituted a technical committee headed by chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh to examine legal validity, implementation feasibility and administrative guidelines for recruitment. The committee submitted its report Friday. Based on it, we finalised internal reservation," the CM said. The decision was unanimous, with ministers KH Muniyappa, RB Timmapur, Shivaraj Tangadagi, G Parameshwara, Priyank Kharge, and HC Mahadevappa — all from SC community — agreeing to the formula.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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OBITUARY

With profound grief, we regret to inform the sad demise of

SHRI. G VIJAYAKUMAR (GVK), Advocate

21st Sep 1953 - 24th April 2026

Past President, Domlur Club

He passed away on 24th April 2026.

We pray for the departed soul to rest in peace and extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Last rites will be held on 25th April 2026 at 4.00 pm Kudlu Crematorium, Bengaluru.

Deeply mourned by family members, members of the Managing Committee, staff & members of Domlur Club.

SAD DEMISE

P. J. George Kanjiramkalayil (77)

Founder - MERA Engineers

(05/04/1949 – 24/04/2026)

2, Leela Cottage, 28th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 76

Called to eternal rest on 24 April 2026

Funeral Service at 4:00 PM (Saturday, 25 April 2026)

St. Thomas Forane Church, Dharmaram, Bengaluru - 29

Lovingly remembered and deeply mourned by:

Leelamma George (Spouse)

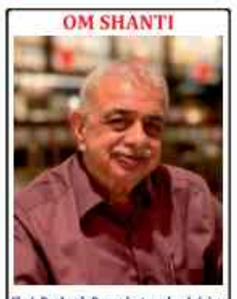
Lejo George & Lege Rajeesh (Children)

Meera Lejo (Daughter-in-law), Dr. Rajeesh George (Son-in-law)

Leon, Geon, Reon, Ritul & Rachel (Grandchildren)

CHAUTHA-UTHAMNA

OM SHANTI



Shri. Prakash Purushotamdas Jaising

(31.10.1954 - 22.04.2026)

Prayer Meet

Saturday, 25th April, 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Sindhi School, Kumara Krupa Rd, Kumara Park

Mourned by:

The Jaising Family, Friends and Relatives

Parking available at Bharthi Seva Dal

REMEMBRANCES

5th Death Anniversary

HFO (Retd.) Chunangad Ramachandran

Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names or their memories

Savithri C *(Wife)*

C Chandrika *(Daughter)*

C Sudhir *(Son)*

Family and Friends

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

In Loving Memory of

SUSHILA BIST

18.01.1948------25.04-2003

23 years have passed since you left us. A noble soul who braved life's odd with courage and smile. You continue to live in our hearts. We feel your love around us. Your ideals continue to inspire us. Deeply missed and remembered by:

J S Bist family, Devendra Rawat family and Balwant Butola family.

5th Death Anniversary

KENIN KIRAN

DOD 25-04-2021

Your life was a gift, your memory a treasure. Like a quiet breeze or a soft light,your memory calms our hearts. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Remembered by: Kiran, Rachel and Rinki

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Mr. N.J. Joseph

(94 yrs)

With profound grief we announce the peaceful passing on of our Father & Grandfather on 21.04.2026.

Funeral Mass: Sunday, 26th April, 2026 At: Our Lady of **Fathima Church,** Jalahalli, Bangalore-13, **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Burial: Church Cemetery, Abbigere, Bangalore-560015

Josy, Jojan, Felix, Remy, Ria, Ray & Rayona.

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Reduce height curbs around HAL airport, state tells Centre

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt submitted a memorandum to defence minister Rajnath Singh seeking a reduction in the height restriction radius around defence airports in Bengaluru from 20km to 15km. It has also written to the defence secretary and civil aviation ministry on the issue.

On Friday, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar met Singh in Delhi to outline the state's rationale for seeking the relaxation. The proposed change is expected to "free up" nearly 78% land within the restricted zones surrounding Yelahanka and HAL airports, enabling the development of hig-hrise buildings and commercial office spaces.

In the memorandum, Shivakumar described the current restrictions as "excessive". It states: "Bengaluru is one of the fastest growing cities in the world and HAL airport is in the core area of Bengaluru where there is huge demand for development. The additional restrictions are hampering development in areas around the airport."

In separate communications to the defence and civil aviation secretaries, the state govt noted that existing civil aviation rules typically prescribe a restriction radius of around 15km. However, the memorandum said "authorities representing defence airports informed us that under rule 5(2) of GSR 751 (E), authorised officers of defence airports are allowed to impose additional restrictions, hence they are restricting the height based on their calculations".

The govt also told the Centre that HAL authorities indicated the extended restriction zone was partly due to helicopter testing at the airport.

"...in that case, it is requested that testing of such helicopters be shifted to HAL-II Tumakuru, which is assembling various helicopters," the state said in its request to the department of defence production under the ministry of defence.

The state has urged the Centre to consider the proposed relaxation, citing advancements in communication, navigation, and surveillance (CNS) technologies, rising land demand in metropolitan areas like Bengaluru, and the need to promote vertical urban growth over urban sprawl.

GOVT SEEKS 2 ACRES DEFENCE LAND FOR TUNNEL PROJECT

During discussions with defence minister Rajnath Singh, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar requested the Centre to allocate 2 acres of land from the Hebbal Defence Dairy Farm to construct a "critical" ramp on the Hebbal side of the proposed tunnel project.

The twin tunnel project will connect Hebbal (Esteem Mall Junction) on Ballari Road and Central Silk Board in south Bengaluru, providing a high-speed route for airport-bound and intercity traffic.

Shivakumar also sought 6.9 acres from the same defence property to develop a 60-foot road linking Sarovara Layout, located behind the farm and Ballari Road. The Bengaluru development minister also sought another 7.4 acres to construct a 24-metre-wide road connecting Lower Agaram Road and Sarjapura Road via Ejipura Junction. The total land requirement for these road infrastructure projects amounts to 13.7 acres.

Both proposals have been submitted under the Centre's equal value land (evl) or equal value infrastructure (EVI) policy framework. Separately, the govt has also requested an additional 1.2 acres of defence land to facilitate construction of an elevated rotary flyover at IOC Junction and two rail overbridges at Baiyyappanahalli.

PTI

RANGE OF ISSUES: DK Shivakumar told defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday that reducing curbs around defence airports would spur development

Nandini Layout to host its 1st Happy Streets tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Nandini Layout is set to welcome Happy Streets by **The Times of India** for the very first time this Sunday, as the neighbourhood prepares for a lively, traffic-free morning. The initiative aims to bring residents together through a vibrant blend of fitness, music, and community engagement, turning familiar streets into buzzing hubs of activity and joy.

The stage line-up promises something for all age groups. The morning will begin on a calming note with a meditation session by Heartfulness, followed by yoga and pranayama sessions by Sarvebhavanthu Sukhinah Yoga. The tempo will then pick up with an energetic Zumba and fitness dance session by The Swingers Dance Inc.

Music and creativity will take centre stage with performances by Mic & Melody and World Music Conservatory, along with singing training by From Mug to Mic. Dance lovers can also look forward to lively performances by Jagan Jagz's Dance Studio, Delight Cultural Dance Academy, and Firoz Dance and Fitness Studio.

Adding an interactive touch, presenting partner Bhima Jewellers will host a crowd quiz with giveaways and a lucky draw. The event will be held near Oxford Secondary School in Nandini Layout. Entry is free.

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets — OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

ALMANAC (25.4.2026)

Mesha Masa 11 – Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Vasantha Ritu – Tithi: Vaisakha Sukla Navami h. 18-29
Nakshatra: Aslesha h. 20-05
Yoga: Ganda h. 23-43.
6 Zu'lqada | Kali Day 1872690
Rahu Kalam 9am — 10.30am

— Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Road, waste issues top North corpn's 1.6k phone-in plaints

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The department-wise grievance data from Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) phone-in programme offers a revealing snapshot of the city's civic stress points, administrative responsiveness, and structural bottlenecks across sectors.

According to BNCC data accessed by **TOI**, a total of 1,626 complaints were recorded till early April, with the majority relating to road infrastructure, solid waste management and forest-related issues. Road maintenance (engineering) alone accounted for 620 complaints — nearly 38% of the total — making it the single largest source of citizen distress.

This was followed by solid waste-related issues (320 complaints) and forest-related grievances (112), indicating that mobility, waste management and green cover governance form the triad of everyday urban friction. Health (88), electrical (95), and veterinary services (70) also featured prominently, suggesting that essential services are under sustained pressure in a rapidly expanding city.

What stands out, however, is the sharp contrast between complaint volume and closure efficiency.

"Of the 1,626 complaints, 1,195 have been marked as closed, reflecting a resolution rate of over 73%. We are working every day to ensure that the city corporation's upkeep remains top-notch. Engineers and sanitation workers are working relentlessly to ensure the corporation performs well," said Pommala Sunil Kumar, BNCC commissioner.

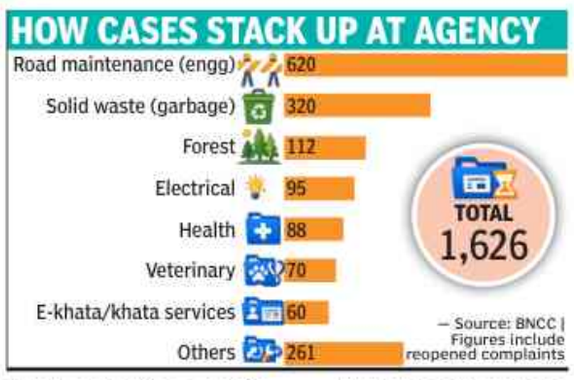
On road maintenance, which shows 406 closures but still carries 123 pending cases and 73 marked for long-term solutions, Sunil Kumar said, "Road infrastructure involves multiple challenges, the biggest being potholes and bad roads. There are two kinds of issues — isolated potholes and long stretches of damaged or missing roads. The latter requires more time and planning to fix."

He added, "In the civic budget, we have committed to fixing arterial, sub-arterial, and ward roads, and this will be taken up soon."

Similarly, solid waste-related complaints show 291 closures out of a total of 320 cases. "There are numerous blackspots in the city, and we have worked extensively to reduce them and ensure proper waste disposal," Sunil Kumar said.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru West City Corporation commissioner Rajendra KV, who also conducted phone-in programmes to understand citizen concerns, said the major complaints in his jurisdiction relate to roadside garbage dumping, illegal parking, footpath encroachment, and potholes. "We are addressing each complaint, but road- and infrastructure-related issues require more time," he said.

Bengaluru Central, South and East city corporations have not been conducting regular phone-in programmes, raising questions about consistency in citizen engagement across zones.



BangaloreOne centres to get e-Swathu

Bengaluru: Citizens can now submit e-Swathu applications at Bapuji Seva Kendras (GramaOne), KarnatakaOne and BangaloreOne integrated citizen service centres across the state, rural development and panchayat raj (RDPR) minister Priyank Kharge said Thursday.

He announced the move after RDPR and Electronic Delivery of Citizen Services (EDCS) under the e-governance department, signed an agreement to bring govt services closer to citizens. Priyank said the agreement will remain valid for three years.

The govt launched the e-Swathu 2.0 portal on Dec 1 last year to regularise over 97 lakh rural properties by issuing e-khata or e-Swathu. Earlier, citizens had to apply through the e-Swathu portal, and those not knowledgeable enough to use the software depended on local cyber centres.

Priyank said the department will train operators at citizen service centres on the e-Swathu and separate login accounts will be created for them. Nodal officers will be appointed to oversee services.

A fee of Rs 45 has been fixed for new khata services. Applicants will also have to pay Rs 5 per page to scan and upload required documents. TNN

SC internal quota: Cabinet finalises roster changes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Karnataka cabinet, at a special meeting Friday, not only redistributed the existing 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) among three internal categories — A, B, and C — but also addressed the contentious issue of allocation when only a single post is available.

In such cases, it decided to treat the post as part of SC general category, where merit will take precedence over internal classification. Social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa said that under this system, candidates from any of the three SC categories can be selected based on merit.

To ensure equitable distribution, the govt has introduced a rotational and partially randomised roster system. Each block of 25 posts will follow a sequence — A, B, C in the first block; B, C, A in the next; followed by C, A, B before repeating. The sequence may also be adjusted based on which category received the least representation in the previous cycle.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah said the resolution clears the way for immediate recruitment to 56,000 approved govt posts. He directed departments to withdraw earlier recruitment notifications issued under the previous 6:6:5 formula for 17% SC reservation and reissue them based on the revised 5.25:5.25:4.5 formula.

Mahadevappa said recruitment notifications released by Karnataka Examinations Authority will also be withdrawn and replaced in line with the new policy.

Siddaramaiah said the decision would ensure "equal justice for all communities" and expressed confidence that it would lead to fair representation during the recruitment process. He clarified that immediate recruitment would proceed under the existing reservation structure — 15% for SCs and 3% for Scheduled Tribes (STs) — instead of the proposed enhanced quotas of 17% and 7%, respectively.

He said that if the Karnataka high court later permits the enhanced 17% reservation — which takes overall reservation beyond the Supreme Court-mandated cap of 50% — the difference of around 6% would be treated as backlog.

Describing it as one of the most "significant" decisions on internal SC reservation in the country, Siddaramaiah said the revised roster system would bring meaningful change to historically marginalised communities.

Several ministers from the SC community, including food and civil supplies minister KH Muniyappa, home minister G Parameshwara, and backward classes minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, welcomed the decision, stating that it delivers justice across communities.

TOI

SWEET MOMENT: Ministers and functionaries congratulate chief minister Siddaramaiah for ensuring a decision on internal reservation for SCs

SHORT TAKES

Govt increases pension contribution for universities

In major relief for financially strained state universities, the govt has decided to increase its contribution towards pension liabilities from 50% to 70%, higher education minister MC Sudhakar revealed. At the convocation of Karnatak University, Sudhakar said several state-run universities are grappling with pension commitments, affecting their overall financial health. He also outlined a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening the higher education system. To improve enrolment among girls, the govt has partnered with Azim Premji Foundation to roll out a new scholarship programme. The scheme will provide annual assistance of Rs 30,000 to 36,000 for girl students who have completed SSLC, PUC I and PUC II from govt institutions. He also announced that under the SCOUT programme, 30 students will be selected annually to pursue studies at East London University in the UK.

Can't have nuclear plant: S'mogga

The Shivamogga district administration has told central govt agencies that Besuru in Sagar taluk is not feasible for a nuclear power plant. Following a request for site inspection by central agencies, the Sagar tahsildar submitted a report in Feb, recommending dropping the proposal, citing that the site is just 300 metres from the backwaters and is home to 670 residents. The proposal had triggered widespread panic among people in the area. The report says Besuru village comprises 3,190.4 acres, of which 499.2 acres are forest land and 238.3 acres has been acquired by Karnataka Power Corporation (KPC).

One for the road: Panel suggests wine, alcohol tourism to give revenue a high

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: With conventional revenue streams nearing saturation and expenditure pressures mounting, the state resource mobilisation committee has advised the govt to explore alcohol tourism.

Formed to identify new revenue avenues, the panel has recommended that the govt encourage wine tourism as a niche but growing segment within India's travel industry. The panel has proposed developing Nandi Hills on the outskirts of Bengaluru as a primary hub for such activities.

"In alcohol-related tourism, wine tourism has developed most visibly, combining vineyard visits, wine tasting experiences, food culture, and rural tourism activities," the panel stated. "Such tourism models integrate agriculture, agro-processing, hospitality, and cultural experiences, generating employment and stimulating local economic activity."

The panel, led by retired IAS officer KP Krishnan, pointed to Nashik in Maharashtra as a successful example, pointing out that the city accounts for nearly 50% of India's wine production. Citing 2023 estimates from Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, the committee said some 2.5 lakh tourists visit Nashik's vineyards annually.

It believes regions such as Nandi Hills, the Bengaluru Rural belt, and parts of North Karnataka are well-suited for grape cultivation and wine production. Karnataka Wine Board said the state has about 25 licenced wineries and over 3,000 hectares of vineyards, making it India's second-largest wine-producing region after Maharashtra.

While acknowledging that several wineries around Nandi Hills already offer tours and tasting sessions, the committee observed that tourism infrastructure — such as vineyard trails, wine festivals, and integrated hospitality facilities — remains "modest".

"Expanding wine tourism could generate significant economic opportunities by linking agricultural production with tourism and hospitality services," the report said, adding that global experiences show such models can create high-value rural economic clusters while promoting local food culture and heritage.

The panel also highlighted the need for regulatory reform to support the sector's growth. Among its recommendations, it proposed allowing wineries to store unlabelled wine bottles within bonded premises under strict inventory controls and traceability norms.

"This would provide greater operational flexibility, especially in managing production cycles, seasonal demand, and export requirements, while ensuring that labelling compliance is enforced prior to market release," it noted.

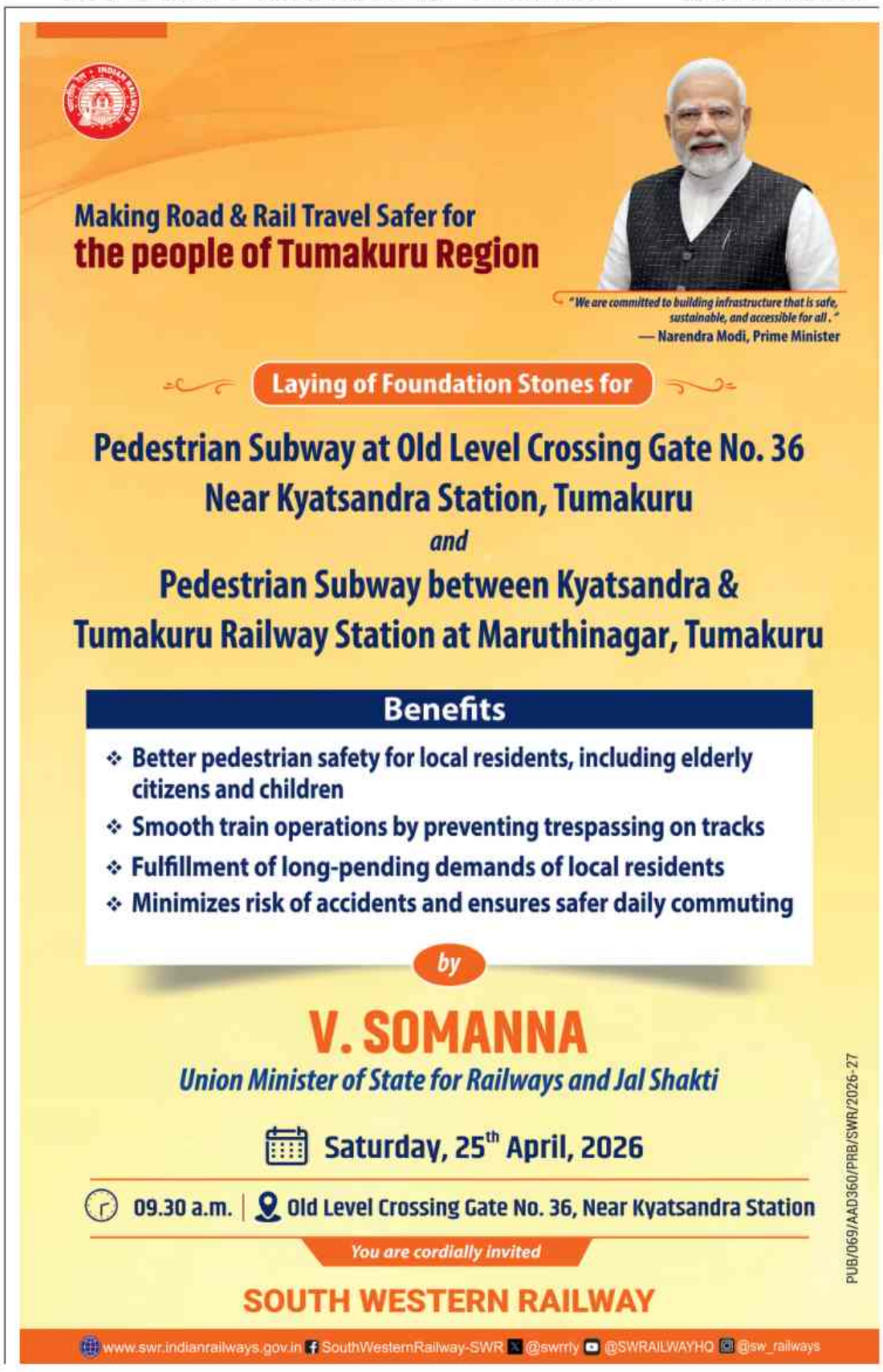
It also suggested introducing a 'self removal procedure (SRP)', enabling manufacturers to clear goods from bonded premises based on self-assessment, subject to defined compliance standards and audit mechanisms. "This approach reduces procedural delays, enhances operational flexibility, and aligns with modern excise practices while retaining regulatory control through post-clearance verification," the committee said.

Picture for representation

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

- 25 Wineries in Karnataka
- Vineyard cultivation 3,000 hectares
- 196 Wine taverns
- 78 Wine boutiques
- Direct employment 1,736 people

Source: Excise department



Every outfit has its own story: Bhoomika on wearing Chanel

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Mr. Shivakumar Tel : 98452 38901

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Lecturer in KANNADA - M.A. Kannada + B.Ed
Female PET - 4 Yr. Integrated B.P.Ed or Degree B.P.Ed
Art Teacher (Part-Time) - Degree /Diploma in Fine Arts/ Crafts
Interested candidates are requested to report for walk-in interview at above mentioned address @ 10:00 AM. on 29-04-2026
Contact Mobile No. 90350 27268
Email id: directorsisa2024@gmail.com

ALL INDIA OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NOTICE – CONSTITUTION REFORMS VOTING
All members have been contacted via their registered Email, WhatsApp, and SMS regarding voting on the proposed Constitutional Reforms. Please visit www.aios.org for details. Email: secretary@aios.org for further information.
Voting open until May 19, 2026

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

ANJANAPURA

WANTED Anjanapura Banashankari 6th Stage JP Nagar Near Kanakapura Road Any Measurement Immediate Settlement Call: 9964627255

BANASHANKARI

Commercial 50x80 BDA Site for sale at Banashankari 6th stage, 1st Block 80 ft road Call:9845145329/ 9844039482

COMMERCIAL 50x80 plot N facing BSK 6th stg 7 blk 100ft Rd Nxt to TOPIC PUB Clear Title DIRECT OWNER registration Agent 8867417894

WANTED BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE 30x40 ANY FACE. DIRECT REGISTRATION. SELLERS IMMEDIATELY CALL : MANOJ - 9731410616

WANTED-BDA-SITES IN BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE/ ANJANAPURA IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT . CALL : 9343668888 / 9535575774.

SALE BDA EAST facing 30'x43.5' in BSK 1st stage Srinagar & DC conversion 40'x 70' N. facing sites in BSK 6th stg. for price call: 9845380312

BANNERGHATTA ROAD

READY TO OCCUPY 2400 SFT, 4 BHK, FULLY FURNISHED LUXURY FLATS EAST FACING, ONE UNIT PER FLOOR. 99868 64000

OR FULL Building with 4 Units of 4 BHK & 2 Shops on Ground flr.Teak, Italian Marble, Jacuzzi, Gym, Cauvry Water & E Khata.

SALE Residential Site 40x60, @ Vijaya Bank Layout East Facing, Price 24K Negotiable. Brokers Excuse. Genuine Buyers Contact: 91106 64819

SITE for sale in Classic Orchids Layout Bannerghatta Road Genuine Buyers only. Call: Lokesh- "Aries property" 9741134782 / 9448065721

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

Sale: Off Cunningham Road Excellent 3 Bedroomed Spacious Flat with 2 Car Parks, with Clubhouse Facilities. Ready for Occupation. Contact "IRSHADS"- 98450-31500.

DEVANAHALLI

₹3750/-Sqft DEVANAHALLI SITES FOR SALE BIAAPA PROPERTY WORLD BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS 9740589739 / 9731308328

DEVANAHALLI Approved Sites for sale near International Airport Size 2400, 4000sqft, 9740589739/ 9731308328

PRIME 30X40 Villa Plots in Devanahalli, Only last 10 Sites available for sale with STTR approved at 6800/- sqft contact NCR- 9731115176 / 9535060654

HBR LAYOUT

AT Posh HBR (BDA) 5th Block 3BHK flats Newly Built ready to occupy with vastu & modern amenities. Good location. Close to Ring Road & Manyata tech park. 98450-07163 / 99723-70494

HEBBAL

SPACIOUS 5000 Sqft 4 BHK furnished Villa with exclusive elevator avail able for rent in Godrej-17, Hebbal, 3 Car park & Serv ant Ph: 9880223669

HENNUR

THANISANDRA G-corp Icon 3 BHK 1996 sft, with All Amenities, off Hennur Road Bairathi 5 BHK Independent House For Sale Call: 98450 22510

PRESTIGE AUGUSTA GOLF VILLAGE

BUY-SELL-RENT VILLAS A-B & C Type 3/4 BHK Semi furnished For Interested Parties Augusta Reality : 9945195025

HENNUR 40X60 SITES FOR SALE 12500/Sqft PROPERTY WORLD BUILDER & DEVELOPERS 9731308328/ 9743395619

2400 & 3000Sqft BBMP Resi Sites for Sale 12500/Sqft Property World Builders & Developers. 9731308328/ 9743395619

HOSUR ROAD

8250 SFT Warehouse for Rent suitable for E Commerce & etc. in D C Halli Main Road, Bommanahalli.9663496944

HRBR LAYOUT

HRBR LAYOUT 1st Block 40X60 North Facing, 3Bedroom Independent Building for Sale Good Location 32000/- Per Sqft. CONTACT: 9342560839

HSR LAYOUT

SALE 30*40 PLOT,E-KHATA,SOUTH FACING,HSR SECTOR-01,1.5KM FROM BDA COMPLEX, PRICE-5.4Cr, PH.NO-9886302939/8792322815

LAST 2 Flats left At Posh HSR 2nd sec. Newly built & ready to occupy 2BHK flats with Vastu & Modern amenities for sale. Call : 98450-07163 / 80508-88648

HSR-WANTED-BDA-SITES And Houses 50x80 & 40x60 & 30x40 & 20x30 For Immediate Settlement Owners and Agent Call : 9343827680 / 9480238650.

INDIRA NAGAR

Urgently Wanted for Outright Purchase in Indiranagar/Domlur Independent House/Commercial Office Space. Budget 25Cr. Contact: "IRSHADS"- 98450-31500.

INDIRANAGAR, off 80 Ft Rd 2nd flr – 3600 sq. ft. office space rent car parking & 100% power backup. North-facing PH: 9845427614 Agents Welcomes

HAL 2nd Stage. East-South Corner prime property 2460 sft Facing Park next to Indira Nagar Club. Cell 9845443283 stjoseph559@yahoo.com

INDIRANAGAR Prime Property Resid or Commercl 2500 Sq.ft Near to Metro Station & Also 30x40 3-BHK Dplx House SAAJJ- 9343355898/ 9343415898

INDIRANAGAR HAL 2nd stg, defence colony, 3500 sft site & built houses 50x80 site,80x100 site, 5400 sft sites & 3 BHK 2155 sft off 80ft Road 98450 22510

JAKKUR

FOR SALE Semi Commercial East Facing 5000 Sft PLOT A Katha

NEXT TO Arkavathi Layout, Chokkanahalli, Rate 10,500/- Per Sq.ft. Contact Owner: 9886400201 / 9341257059

4000SQFT N/E Corner Plot For Sale Judicial Layout Jakkur. 40ft Rd on both Sides Buying commission Applicable Direct buyers only. WhatsApp Message only: 9663766492

JALAHALLI

JALAHALLI - Prime Land Parcel @ Kamagondanahalli Circle. Corner Site. 60 Feet Frontage. 3600 Sqft, A Khata. High Growth Area. Serious Buyers Only For inspections & Details Contact: 9108988409

JAYANAGAR

14000 sq ft comercial building for rent basement plus 3 suitable for office diagnostic service banks tutorial showroom on Kanakapura Road 7th block jayanagar contact 9845010485

WANTED Comml Building with land Area above 6000 Sqft Building 8000Sqft. NRI buyer for Medical Diagnostic Centre in South Bangalore: 7026500097

LUXURY Newly Built 3BHK Apartment for Sale in Jayanagar near South End Circle, 2200 to 2500 Sqft Each Flat. Ct: 9945265049/ 9738302049.

JP NAGAR

Grand villa style entryway to Vastu aligned apartment with a balinese inspired gardens. 3 BHK starts from 1.45 Cr*

PRIVATE VARANDA Space, RERA APPROVED, with 60+ Amenities. 800 meters to Silk Institute metro, Kanakapura road & Nice Road, Ct: 9743859000

KANAKAPURA ROAD

KANAKAPURA-ROAD, Unique Opportunity to Acquire 3 Acres, Suitable For Plotted Development, Commercial Ventures. Clear Documents. Offered at a Attractive Price. Near Concorde Napa Valley. 300 Meters from Kanakapura Main Road 6.5 kms From Art of Living. For Details Contact : 9844605003

990SFT, N/F, 4BHK Tplx 2.30Cr, 30x42,1.60Cr, 1350Sft, 15000/- 1050Sft, 2BHK Semi frd flat 75L, 1500sft G+2, Home 3Cr Nr Y halli Metro- 9964652358

KUMARASWAMY LAYOUT

25X40, 3BHK DUPLEX HOUSE for Sale. Granite flooring. All Teak Wood interiors, Kumara swamy Layout 1st Stage, Rs. 2.25 Cr, (Nego). Call: 94810 68595

MALLESHWARAM

SALE 50x80 40ft Road Near Manthri Mahal old NKB Hotel Rd Malleshwaram Sampige Rd Semi Commercial Regionable Rate Ct: 9611844667 / 8123515830

MARATHAHALLI

FOR SALE PURVA RIVIERA 3BHK 1700sqft, Higher floor Good view, with all amenities. Price Rs.2.6cr. For further details contact : 98450-28061

MG ROAD & AROUND

Immediate Available For Rent 700sqft Shop Space Location: Bangalore

OCCUPANCY @ Main Kamraj Road professional layout, for all business owners PH:7483357234/ 9980797112

NAGARBHAVI

SITE for Sale 20x40 and 30x40 North Facing Near National Public School Muddinapalya Circle Loan Documents with BDA NOC Call: 9916061166

NAGASANDRA

FOR SALE - AREA -13068.Sft RESIDENTIAL LAND FOR SALE in Nagasandra Main Road towards Nelakadarana halli. Call: 90711 53337

OUTER RING ROAD

Resurgent Spaces Adarsh Lake Front RMZ Ecoworld 3.5 bhk Super Premium Lake facing 2212sft 4.75Cr 9886078045

PEENYA

2SITES Immediate Sale 80ftx100ft in Hegganahalli Cross Bangalore A&E Katha Bore Well , Brick Wall Fenced Contact: 9900287834/ 9448377834

RAJAJI NAGAR

SALE 3BHK with 3 Toilet Vaishnavi Nakshatra Near Yeshwanthpur, Orion Mall 1700 Sft with All Amenities Rs. 2.6 CR. Vinay 7892474959

RMV EXTENSION

Broker in Blue.

FOR SALE Exclusive homes & plots 4,000sft + Rs.12 Cr + Single point contact. 9900142491 / 9731131641

RT NAGAR

INDEPENDENT-HOUSE For Sale @ Anand Nagar, RT Nagar 1500 sft plot | 1800 sft Built | G+1 | 3BHK+3BHK East Facing, 100% Vastu | Price 3.45 Cr Nego. Call : Emaad 99451 95025.

SARJAPUR ROAD

CARMALARAM Sale Plot No. 11, Nakshatra Boulevard Lyt, Survey No. 17/ 4A. Site Size 30'x41' Clear title. E Khata. G N Properties 98450 44179

SARJAPUR Road Reliable Lifestyle 50x55, Farms Gardinea 40X60, Sunny Brooks 30X50, Green Villa 40x60, Address Makers 40X60 Sale: 74118 96696

FOR SALE Prime Residentially Converted Land for Sale on SARJAPUR ROAD Bangalore. 21000 SqFt. Close to Wipro Sez 120 Ft. From Main Road. Suitable for High End Villa or Apartment. +91 97433 35678

VIDYARANYAPURA

NEAR Sambram College Best County 2, DC Conversion A/E Kata, 40x60 wf, 30x40, 37.5x40 wf BBMP B/E K, Amba Bhavani Temple Back Side: 82968 95858

VIJAYA NAGAR

INDEPENDENT House 3BHK, 40*50/2000Sft, South East Corner, Near Sobha Hospital,Off Pategarpalya Main Road.99868 64000

SITE FOR SALE 60x90 RPC Layout VIJAYNAGAR

PRIME LOCATION Site 60x90 West Facing WOC Road RPC Layout Only Genuine Buyers 6363250343/ 9845038343

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

North facing BDA 1264sft site for sale at 6th block, Visveswaraiah layout Call:9844039482

SALE 2054sft North East Corner BDA Site

AVAILABLE AT Kommagatta, E Katha Price- 6750/- Negotiable Ready for Registration. Contact Owner 73533 04060

BDA Site Sale 30x32 NF Jnanabharthi 2nd Stage Allotty Near Amma Ashrama, Back Side Park & 40x60 North SMV 2nd Block 8500/-. Call: 8970306030

YELAHANKA

SEMI FURNISHED 9 Flats Ready To Occupy Near Mother Dairy, D-Mart All Amenities. Contact: 9844233244

4BHK DUPLEX Luxury Yelahanka,Ramanshree California Gardens, 3300sqft, Price 8500/- sq.ft, CT: 9448122544/9980952919.

SALE 3 BHK Exclusive 1 Flat Per Floor Yelahanka Newtown A Sector. Call for all Inclusive Festival Offer: 9886415554/ Mail: rsrprop@yahoo.co.in

FOR sale 4000sft South facing residential plot in Yellahanka, sector 'A' Price quoted: Rs. 21,000/sft, negotiable. Contact: 9663797772

SALE high potential 5000 sft ready to built approved Villa plot near upcoming Taj Group resorts hotel, Rajanakunte. Rs. 5000/ sft. Call 9980560293

LAND FOR SALE

LAND FOR SALE/JD- 25000 Sqft in Hennur- Bagalur Road Suits for Apts and 3.5 Acres in Bagalur- Airport Road Agents Excuse. Call-81978 70039

LAND FOR SALE 1.4 acres Industrial 6.27 acres residential Land for Sale at Kotekar Village Cross Road, Mangalore. Best suitable for Industries, Hospitals and Colleges. Contact - 9880444990

FOR SALE

UDAIPUR

SALE in Destination Wedding City UDAIPUR 3 BHK Luxury 1600 sft, 2 Flats, Prem. Res. area nr Schools, Malls, Lakes. W'app +91 95094 81257, +1 857 347 7806

BANGALORE

BDA Commercial Building BSK - Bank Colony, Near PES College, 60 x 40 Corner North Facing, Expected Rent - 3.10 Lk Price - 7.5 Cr, Call - 9110479782

THIRUVANTHAPURAM

TRIVANDRUM Kovalam Samudra beach Taj and Udhaya Hotels line PWD roadside Lake Sea View 5 cents plot. 2200 sq ft 9496623006

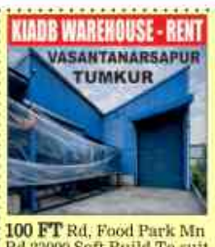
OUTSIDE BANGALORE

MYSORE

MYSORE Commercial GF 1400 Sft with Strong room, CP. On JLB Rd Chamundipuram. For Bank, Gold loan NBFC, Display center, Showroom, Retail. CALL: 94440 74218

MUDA APPROVED PREMIUM RESIDENTIAL PLOTS FOR SALE IN BANNUR ROAD, MYSURU. JUST 7 KM FROM MYSURU PALACE. CONTACT: 96067687788

TUMKUR



100 FT Rd, Food Park Mn Rd 23000 Sqft Build To suit Corner Plot EF, 2 Cranes, 1st Phase, 2 Warehouse 9008111116/ 9845055155

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

MISSION ROAD, Total 4000sft. Ground and Basement, Corner Excellent Property, 3 Sides Road, Current Rental Income Rs. 4.65 Lac p.m. CONTACT : 7397741830

22,000 Sft COMMERCIAL CONVERTION LAND for SALE /JD

HENNUR CROSS, BBMP E Khata. Good Location. Genuine Buyers CALL: 9945227313 or 9739914365

FULLY Developed Clinic Available For Rent Malleshwaram with Consultation Rooms, Diagnostics, Radiology, Pharmacy, and Complete Amenities. Ideal for Medical Practitioners or Healthcare Groups. Serious Enquiries only. Contact: 9972181837

COMMERCIAL SITE FOR SALE: 30X100 Size on Bangalore-Mysore Road near Pantarapalya Metro Station. For details Contact: 98446 44055

FULLY Furnished 16,000Sft. A/C Showroom For Sale On Prime Busy Commercial Area, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram. Call: 9845358544 / 9448477419.

CAMBRIDGE Nr Saibaba Temple GF,1f,Pent house with Servant Room,100% Power Backup, Ccp, Lift, Rs.12k Per Sqft Sale 9087560000

INTERIOR DESIGNER

15 YRS Exp Wpc kitchen (50 Yrs Warranty) 529+ Happy customers Transpa rent Price on time delivery M : 9739852288/ 9739852255

LEASE & RENT

1500 Sq.ft of Office Space available for Rent at Manipal Centre. Contact: 7892649089 / 9880306788.

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

CONTACT Buying selling renting Apartment agricultural land E katha BDA Bescom Transfer call : 8088817527.

PROPERTY WANTED

30X40 / 60x40 Land Required for JV in Bangalore Call: +91 75340 90909

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SUKHSHANTHI Luxury Retirement Home, on trial stay Rs. 1,500/- Per person, per day, furnished accommodation. 3 Meals, 24X7 Nurse, Ambulance, Library. Off Sarjapur Road. Call: 9341289357 / 8884710009.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sharath Shivakumar S/o K.N.Shivakumar has changed the name from Sharath Kakanur to Sharath Shivakumar for all Future purposes.

I, Umesh J S S/O Srirangappa R/O H. No. 10, 11th Cross 1st Main Road, Agrahara Layout Bangalore North, Dist. Bangalore Urban (Karnataka) - 560064 have changed the name of my minor daughter J U Aishwaraya aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as ANUSHREE J U.

I, Priyanka Sivashankar / Priyanka S. Shankar, D/o Sivashankar Ramanathan, resident of 101, Ragashiva Residency, 2nd Cross, KG Colony, GM Palya, Bengaluru – 560075, have changed my name to Priyanka Shankar, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public on 22/04/2026.

I Nawal Kumar Bathri S/o Nathu Ram Bathri R/o C004, Platinum Gardenia, Anjanapura Township, JP Nagar, 8th Phase, Bengaluru-560108 have changed my name from Nawal Kumar to Nawal Kumar Bathri for all future purposes

I Deepashree D/o Jayakar Pakkala Kudoor R/o # E303, Rohan Iksha, Bhoganahalli Road, Bhoganahalli , Bengaluru-560103, have changed my name from Deepashree to Deepashree Rai for all future purposes.

I, MEENA KAUL, R/o Apt-153, DSR Eden Greens, Janatha Colony, Opposite to Carmelaram Railway Stn, Bengaluru-560035 have changed my name to MEENA KOUL for all purposes.

I, Kempanahalli Lakshmana Arjun alias K L Arjun alias Arjun K L, have changed my name to Arjun Kempanahalli Lakshmana vide affidavit no. IN-KA36658249740385X dated 29-12-2025 at Bangalore.

I, SHIVAKUMARA S/o Venkategowda Residing at: No-36, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Basaveshwara Layout, Chimasandra, Virgonagar Post, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560049. have changed my name to SHIVAKUMAR V vide affidavit dated 21.04.2026 sworn before notary Ramaiah, Bangalore.

I Girisha Narayana aged 35 yrs , R/o No. 26 2nd main, 2nd Cross, 2nd block Nandini Layout Bangalore - 560096 Have changed my name to Girish Narayana vide Affidavit dated 24/4/2026 Henceforth, I shall be known Girish Narayana for all Purposes Notary D. G Shanthappa Bangalore

I, Srinivasa T N. R/a No. 664/519A, Syndicate Bank Layout, Vishwaneedam, Bangalore-560091. have changed name of my minor son Prajwal S T to PRAJWAL SRINIVASAN T, Vide affidavit dated 23/04/2026 sworn before Notary S Prasanna Kumar, Blr

I Sweta Kulkarni W/o Bharat K R R/0 Kumaraswamy layout, Bengaluru have changed my name from Sweta to Sweta Kulkarni for all future purposes

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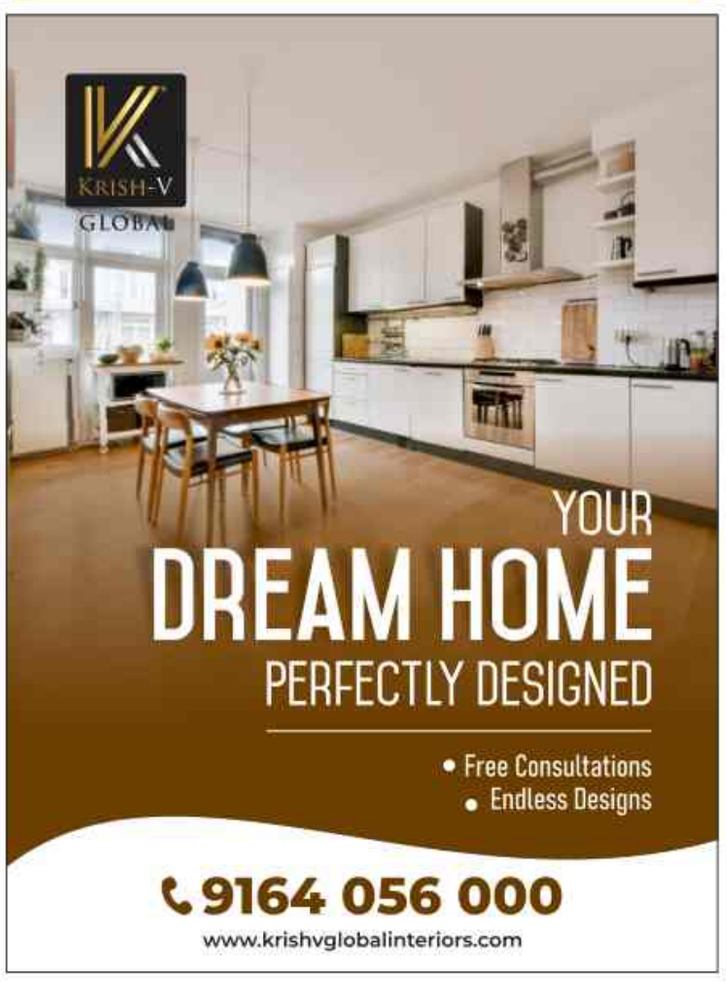
A Leading Hotel chain is looking to take over "Premium Resorts" on Lease, in and around Bangalore.

The Resort should have a minimum of 30 Cottages/ Villas with other facilities and good landscape.

Owners pls call/ WhatsApp to: 63601 12131

(Brokers Kindly excuse)



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2.0 TON 3STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER
EMI ₹3,624
FREE: FAMILY HOLIDAY PACKAGE WORTH ₹5,000*

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1.0 TON 5 STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER
EMI ₹2,883
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1.0 TON 5 STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER
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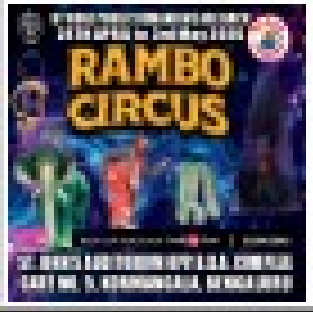

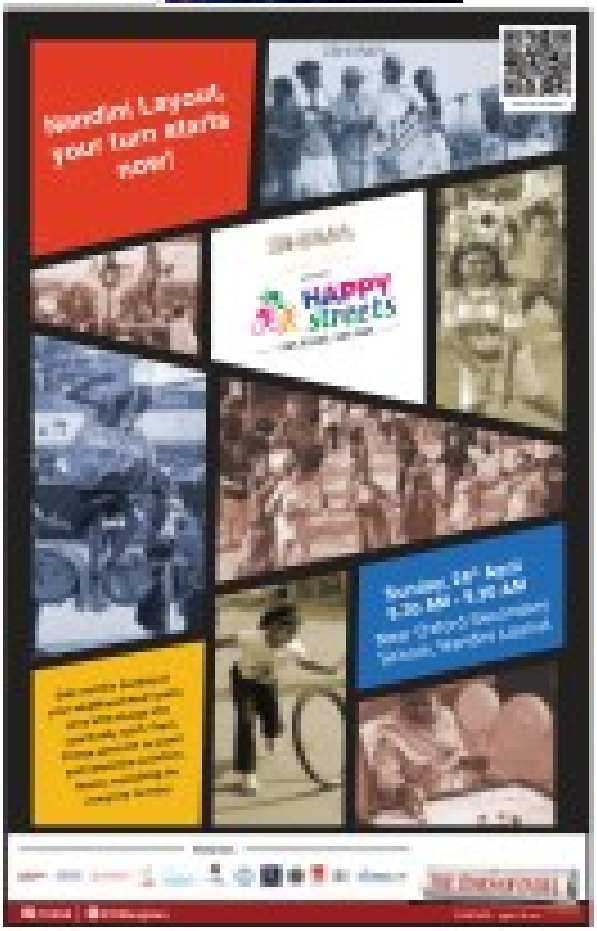

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAMZA BI, D/o. Late. MUHAMED HUSSAIN, R/a. No.287,Thimmaiah Road Cross, Nehrupuram, Shivajinagar. Bengaluru-51. I. have Changed my name to RAZIA JAN, Vide affidavit, dated 21/04/2026 Sworn before Me: Court of The Chief Judicial Magistrate Bengaluru.

I, Deepika Singh W/o Kaushik Nandan R/o 2A-402, Arcadia Apartments, Chikkabellandur, Bangalore - 560035. I have changed my name from Deepika Rajeshkumar Singh to Deepika Singh vide sworn before notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore dated 24.04.2026

I, Nazira Kazi D/o Chandsaheb Kazi, residing at 6B E1, Fernhill Gardens, HSR Sector-6, Bangalore-560102, changed name to Nazira Babasaheb Kazi vide affidavit dated 17-04-2026 before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I PRASHANT S/O VIJAY KUMAR R/O E-219 Brigade Woods Gr Tech Park Road I T P I, Area Whitefield Bengaluru Karnataka-560066 have changed my name to PRASHANT AGARWAL.

I Narayani Dayanand Pai W/O, Nishant Kini R/o 1/37, 1st Floor, Bob Colony, Puthenahalli, 7th Phase J P Nagar, Bangalore - 560078 have changed my name to Narayani Pai Kini.

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COURT NOTICE

Notice U/o -5 Rule-20 C.P.C IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE(SR. DIVN.): CUTTACK, ODISHA
C.S. NO. 941/2024 & I.A. No. 1/2024
Smt. Sudharani Nanda ..... Plaintiff/Petitioner.
-versus-
Sayed Perwiz Iqbal & another ..... Defendant/Opp. Parties.
Sayad Parwiz Iqbal(commercial manager), M/S Bulk Liners Pvt. Ltd., At- Plot No. 485/3, Peenaya Industrial Area, 2nd stage, 14th cross road, Bangalore-58. The above noted case C.S. No. 941/2024 and I.A. No. 1/2024 is posted to 11-05-2026 for your appearance.
You are hereby directed to appear in this court on that date failing which the suit as well as I.A. will be heard in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this court on 13th April day of 2026

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CET janivara row: College staff suspended, arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A day after staff at Krupanidhi Pre-University College allegedly asked Common Entrance Test (CET) aspirants to remove their 'janivara' (sacred thread) before entering the exam hall, the college has suspended three employees pending inquiry.

Following the controversy, which took a political turn and led to the filing of a formal police complaint, the institution suspended faculty member Sudheer D, second division clerk A Sarita and attender Girija. All three were later booked by Madivala police under Sections 299 and 302 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for allegedly hurting religious sentiments. "We've registered a case based on the complaint made by Raghu Bheem Rao, a private company employee and parent of a CET aspirant," a senior police officer said, adding that the accused were summoned for questioning Friday evening and subsequently arrested.

Police said the personnel, during interrogation, claimed they were enforcing exam guidelines. "They claimed they were only asking students to remove any physical materials on their bodies that could become a hindrance. During that time, a few students asked whether they had to remove the sacred thread. We told them to remove everything as per the guidelines; we did not mean to harm anyone's feelings," an officer said, quoting their statements.

The issue snowballed after media reports, with several religious and cultural organisations raising objection. Leader of the opposition R Ashoka alleged that the Siddaramaiah govt was hurting Hindu sentiments. Higher education minister MC Sudhakar said action would be taken. "I feel some people are intentionally doing this to tarnish the image of the state govt," he said.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) said it has initiated an inquiry through the deputy commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district, custodian of the exam.

Muthu P

SMOOTH SAILING CET 2026 was held across 745 centres in Karnataka Thursday and Friday. Officials said about 96% of the registered candidates appeared for the key exam

OMR uploaded within an hour

KEA executive director H Prasanna said OMR sheets from Hubballi-Dharwad were scanned and uploaded to the KEA website within an hour of the exam's conclusion. "This is the first time that a facility has been arranged in Dharwad, apart from Bengaluru, to scan answer sheets," he said. Sheets from other districts will be uploaded once they reach Bengaluru, sources said.

Spl centre for those who couldn't apply in time

In a first, KEA set up a special exam centre in Bengaluru on humanitarian grounds for candidates who could not apply within deadline because of genuine reasons. More than 100 candidates — affected by illness, financial issues, parental opposition or bereavement — were allowed to apply, including 13 on Wednesday, and appeared for the exams Thursday and Friday. The helpline also assisted 15 candidates who called on exam day unable to download hall tickets because of missing application numbers.

Examination peaceful

CET was held across 745 centres in Karnataka. Officials said about 96% of the registered candidates appeared, and the exams were conducted smoothly. "This year, we deputed 745 dress code officers. We had also informed all students to reach the exam centre two hours early if they had any such dress code to be verified. A total of 15,265 CCTV cameras were installed for surveillance," said H Prasanna, executive director, KEA.

Accused didn't know about 2nd camera: Cops

▸ Continued from page 1

Investigators said Roichan suspected the camera had captured his image while he was trespassing in the forest. In a bid to destroy evidence and avoid identification, he allegedly removed the device and attempted to burn it.

The theft came to light after Naveen Kumar R, range forest officer of Kargal Wildlife Range, filed a complaint on April 11. Kargal police launched an investigation and arrested the accused at his residence in Kalagadde.

What the accused did not know, police said, was that a secondary camera concealed in nearby bushes continued to record the scene. That camera captured him carrying a country-made gun, providing crucial evidence of illegal hunting. Shivamogga superintendent of police B Nikhil told **TOI** the accused was produced before a local court and remanded in judicial custody.

Forest officials said the incident reflects a worrying trend. At least five camera traps have gone missing in Sharavathi Valley over the past six months. Experts said theft of tiger census cameras is on the rise across Karnataka.

SHOPHOLA

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Do not let the sun deter you from updating your wardrobe this season. Use these tips to shop efficiently in local markets

Sun-Smart Shopping

Respedit.Bangalore
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Local markets become popular shopping destinations on weekends, especially during seasonal sales and the arrival of new clothing and jewellery. However, the heat can make it challenging to explore thoroughly, sometimes resulting in impulsive purchases. With some planning and preparation, you can maximise your summer shopping experience.

PRIORITISE YOUR PURCHASES

The wide array of products on offer is a benefit of the local markets that turns into a disadvantage when you don't have a plan. The variety of products at different prices and the scope of bargaining can tempt buyers to check every shop to get the best price. Instead of tiring yourself by roaming in the market without a goal, make a list and shop according to your priorities. "Shopping is often considered a time-consuming process, but with a wish list in hand and the right knowledge of the market you are shopping at, one can easily navigate even the busiest of markets within an hour or so," shares Tanmayi Indukuri, engineer and shopping enthusiast. "Today, with social media, it is even more convenient to spot shops that are featured in reels, along with their addresses mentioned. Also, shop for heavier items like footwear, traditional outfits, or home decor at the end of your shopping spree to avoid carrying the heavy bags throughout."

SHOPPING TIPS

1. Dress in light colours and summer-appropriate clothing
2. Carry a big cloth bag to carry the purchased items together instead of carrying multiple bags
3. Grab your sun protection gear, such as caps, sunglasses and scarves
4. Apply sunscreen thoroughly, as well as carry it with you
5. Carry a bottle of water and stay hydrated

VISIT DURING COOLER HOURS

Most of the local markets in the city are open throughout the day. To avoid the sweltering heat, which peaks during the afternoons, visit the market in the evening. "Popular street markets of the city are most active during the evenings. With crowded alleyways, shops lit up with lights, and shopkeepers calling customers, visit the market after five in the evening to live an authentic market experience. However, to avoid the crowd as well as the harsh sun, the time between three and five is also suitable," reveals Neha Kothari, a teacher.

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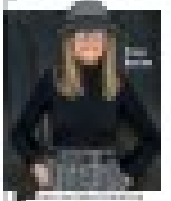
Sharks are like ex-murderers, people react to them with their guts - Peter Benchley

Fifty years of fear: The Jaws formula lives on

The legacy of Jaws

I remember when Quint was in production on Jaws, the men that lived here would float out there fully and going to his salvation

Diane Kruger's wardrobe and Alexa Bliss' surprise gender reveal



Is it time for personality rights in Hollywood?

Clean water and greenery define our collective future: Juhi

'The curly hair message was unintended'

FATHANAH ON THE PRINCESS DIARIES

HC sets aside family court's parallel maintenance order

It Says CrPC Order Overrides Interim Relief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

NO DOUBLE PAY

- High court observes that parallel relief can't continue if maintenance under CrPC Section 125 is granted
- Court says ₹10,000 awarded by Tumakuru court takes precedence over interim relief in matrimonial case
- Holds that dual maintenance orders would lead to duplication and overlapping of financial liability
- Upholds ₹20,000 litigation cost under Hindu Marriage Act

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has quashed a family court order awarding Rs 10,000 a month as interim maintenance to a woman, holding that once a court passes a maintenance order under Section 125 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), an interim maintenance order in a pending matrimonial case cannot continue in parallel.

Partly allowing a petition filed by the woman's husband, Justice K Manmadha Rao said the nature and scope of relief under Section 24 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 was distinct and limited to providing immediate financial assistance to enable a wife to prosecute or defend matrimonial proceedings.

The couple in question got married in Nov 2020 at Tumakuru. Within a week, differences cropped up as the woman alleged that the husband's family insisted on receiving another Rs 25 lakh, apart from the transfer of properties in her name, even though her family had spent Rs 40 lakh on the marriage. As she was allegedly treated badly, she registered a complaint with Byatarayanapura police in Bengaluru. Thereafter, she shifted to her parents' house in Tumakuru.

Meanwhile, alleging that his wife had deserted him voluntarily, the husband filed a matrimonial case before the family court in Bengaluru, seeking divorce. The court awarded Rs 10,000 as interim maintenance to the wife and an additional Rs 20,000 towards litigation expenses, after allowing the interlocutory application filed by the woman. This order was passed on Jan 5, 2024. Subsequently, the woman filed a separate application before a Tumakuru court under CrPC Section 125, seeking Rs 60,000 a month as maintenance. On Nov 21, 2025, the Tumakuru court awarded Rs 10,000 as monthly maintenance.

The husband challenged both orders, contending that the woman possessed independent sources of income, including business and rental income amounting to Rs 4 lakh a month. He further argued that parallel adjudication of maintenance claims was not permitted under the law, and that the woman had failed to disclose facts in court.

After perusing the materials on record, Justice Rao noted that the Rs 10,000 interim maintenance awarded by the family court was limited in nature, as final adjudication was pending. He added that the Tumakuru court's Rs 10,000 maintenance order was final and, based on evidence, took precedence over the interim arrangement.

"In that view, continuation of the parallel direction from the family court would result in duplication of relief and overlapping financial liability for the same period, which cannot be sustained in law," the judge noted.

However, the judge upheld the sum of Rs 20,000 awarded under litigation expenses by the family court, saying this falls under Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, which allows support for a spouse without enough income to fight the case.

Kodagu rape survivor returns to US; bail hearing of 2 adjourned

Lawrence.Milton
@timesofindia.com

Mysuru/Madikeri: Hearings on the bail pleas of the cook, accused of raping an American woman at a homestay in Kutta, Kodagu, earlier this month, and the owner of the facility, charged with attempts to suppress the incident, have been adjourned to Saturday.

Advocate Kokkanda Appanna, who had filed the bail applications for the accused, said the court adjourned the hearing, seeking clarification on whether the survivor would be made party to the pleas. The survivor, meanwhile, has returned to the US upon completion of all medico-legal formalities in Karnataka, a senior police officer told **TOI**. She flew out of Bengaluru Thursday.

The officer further said investigation into the case was being conducted by an inspector from Kutta police station. The accused duo — Brijesh, the cook, and homestay owner Vishal Ponnappa — will be taken into custody for interrogation once the formalities related to collection and examination of evidence are over, the police officer said.

Homestay owners' body condemns incident

Strongly condemning the incident, Kodagu Homestay Owners' Association Friday urged the district administration and police to act against illegal homestays and to immediately fill in the deputy director's post at the tourism department. Association president Monthi Ganesh told reporters in Madikeri there are unauthorised homestays operating in Kodagu. Authorities must formulate rules to act against such establishments. "A total of 2,470 homestays are registered in the district, but another 2,000 are operating without registration," alleged former association president K M Karumbaiah.

Naveen Ambekal, vice-president of the association, said it is mandatory for homestays to inform police within 24 hours of foreign tourists checking in. Confirming this, a senior police officer said hosts must submit Form C, bearing basic information about foreigners.

Parents deny smartphone, teen ends life

Hubballi: A teenager allegedly died by suicide Friday after his parents refused to give him their smartphone.

The deceased has been identified as Samarth Phadke, 14, a resident of Uday Nagar in Hubballi. Family members said Samarth was fondly called DJ and used to play games on a smartphone. "He erased all data on his mother's phone. After his parents advised him to stay away from mobile phones and focus on studies, he went to his room and ended his life. Meanwhile, his parents were visiting a shop to get the phone repaired," a family member said.

(If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in need of emotional support, call helplines — Arogya Vani: 104, Sahay Helpline: 080-25497777)

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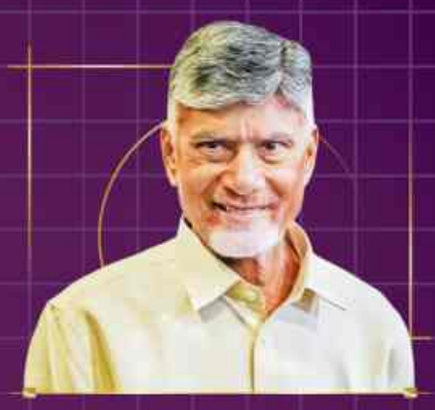

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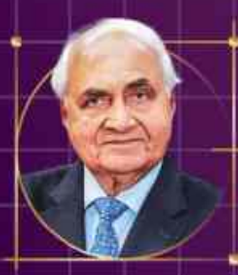

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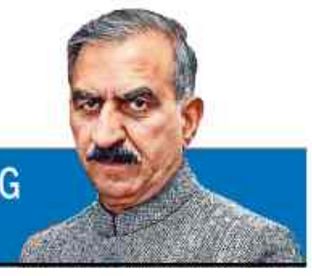
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

HIGH VOTER TURNOUT IN TN POLLS REFLECTS STRONG CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY, SAYS CHIEF MINISTER MK STALIN

FIR AGAINST MALLIKARJUN KHARGE AIMED AT SILENCING HIM, SAYS HIMACHAL CM SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU



STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Where migrant journeys turned deadliest in 2025

Five illegal transit areas accounted for almost 60% of the 7,672 migration deaths. The real toll is likely higher because many deaths go uncounted

56.8% of deaths of migrants on illegal transit routes in just five areas

India ranks 31st with 17 recorded deaths in 2025*

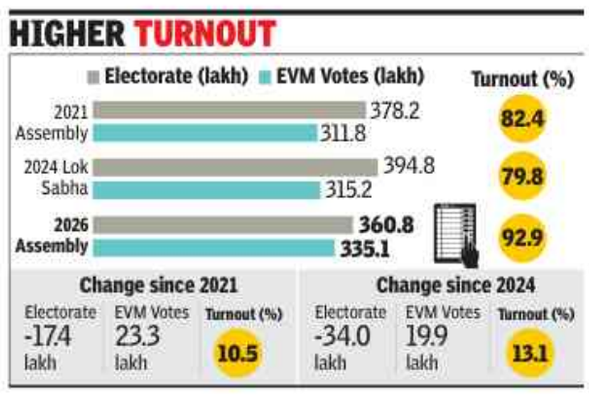
77.3% of deaths in top 10 areas

*Deaths of people in transit in/near India, not of Indian nationals abroad. Source: UN

24 lakh more voted in Phase-1 West Bengal polls than in 2021

Surge Despite 18L Voters Being Purged By SIR

Kaushik.Pradhan @timesofindia.com



Kolkata: The Election Commission's revised polling data, released on Friday, shows that Bengal's first-phase poll turnout, besides breaking all records in percentage terms, has also increased in absolute terms over the 2021 figure despite the SIR process shrinking the total electorate.

Nearly 24 lakh more people voted in the 152 constituencies spread over 16 districts on Thursday compared to the 2021 figure collated from the same seats. More than 3.35 crore voters exercised their franchise this time; the figure in 2021 was 3.1 crore.

This surge came despite the voter count dropping by 18 lakh in these 152 seats. They had 3.8 crore voters in 2021; this time, after SIR, the figure dropped to 3.6 crore.

The updated EC figures show 14 of the 16 districts (all except Kalimpong and Darjeeling) recorded over 90% polling. Cooch Behar was at the top with 96%, closely followed by South Dinajpur (95.4%), Jalpaiguri (94.6%), Birbhum (94.5%) and Malda (94.4%). Murshidabad, where SIR reduced the number of voters by over 7 lakh, recorded a high 93.6% polling as well.

Almost all these districts have a huge chunk of voters working in blue-collar jobs in other states. Conversations with voters in all these districts have indicated that the record-busting surge in turnout has been fuelled largely by these people returning home — often spending thousands of rupees on travel and losing their daily wages — to exercise their franchise. Almost everyone voiced fears that not voting in a cycle dominated by the SIR exercise might lead to deletion of their names from the voter roll.

Cooch Behar's Sitalkuchi — which saw four deaths in CISF firing during the 2021 poll — topped the turnout percentage list among constituencies, with 97.5% of electors voting. Shamsherganj in Murshidabad, which saw 91,712 names deleted in the SIR exercise (the highest in Bengal), recorded 96.1% polling.

Bengal CEO Manoj Agarwal Thursday explained that the exclusion of non-existent voters (ASDD or absent, shifted, dead/duplicate) had reduced the overall electorate, thereby contributing to a higher polling percentage. Significantly, however, Friday's EC figures show a voter surge even in absolute terms.

All nine assembly constituencies in Cooch Behar clocked more than 94% polling and five of the six assembly constituencies in South Dinajpur recorded over 95% turnout; Kushmandi topped with 96.5%. Chanchal led the charge in Malda with a 95.5% turnout.

Drones, Isro's satellite expose encroachment in Ch'garh tiger reserve

Rashmi.Drolia@timesofindia.com

Satellite feed from 2008, 2010, 2012 & 2022 showed 1 lakh trees had been illegally felled in core forest land

Raipur: Satellite imagery from Isro's CARTOSAT, backed by drone surveys, exposed a disturbing trail of large-scale encroachment in a protected area of Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh's Gariyaband district.

Satellite feed from 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2022, along with drone mapping revealed that around 1 lakh trees had been illegally felled over 106 hectares of encroached core forest land in the reserve. This forest belt — notified in 1974 to protect giant sal trees — had been stripped bare in parts over 15 years in the core wildlife habitat and Mahanadi catchment area.

Officials said the high-resolution images allowed them to identify individual encroachments, fields, felled trees and stumps with up to 10cm of clarity. Forest officials alleged 166 encroachers from Jaitpuri village had occupied the land in Sitanadi range despite owning plots in revenue areas. The department registered preliminary offence reports and issued notices, with eviction and legal action set to follow. After eviction, the department plans groundwater conservation and large-scale tree plantation to restore the damaged forest.

Officials said several stumps had allegedly been burnt to destroy evidence, while fresh tree cutting continued.

The ecological damage is serious as Sitanadi is a crucial habitat for elephants, leopards and tigers. Officials said large-scale encroachment in such a sensitive zone may already have worsened habitat loss and man-animal conflict. Local sources said some arrests in such cases were made in 2011, but suspects were acquitted within a year due to tardy probe. Thereafter, they allegedly resumed expanding encroachment.

ED raids Jagan's key associates in ₹3,200cr Andhra liquor 'scam'

Hyderabad: Enforcement Directorate carried out searches at 12 locations in Hyderabad and Tirupati Friday, targeting former Andhra Pradesh CM **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy**'s close aides, **reports U Sudhakar Reddy**.

The raids are linked to alleged Rs 3,200 crore liquor scam when YSR Congress was in office from 2019 to 2024.

Premises connected to former MP V Vijayasai Reddy, former YSRC MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, Kesireddy Rajasekhara Reddy alias Raj Reddy, Booneti Chanakya alias Prakash, Krishnamohan Reddy, K Dhananjaya Reddy, Avinash Gowd, Muppidi Avinash Reddy alias Sumith, and Sajjala Sridhar Reddy were searched.

Raj Reddy is identified as the principal architect of the alleged cartel and is accused of laundering money through a web of companies.

T'gana RTC strike: Driver succumbs to burns; another attempts suicide

Hyderabad: K Shankar Goud, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) driver from Narsampet in Warangal district who resorted to self-immolation on April 23, succumbed to 80% burns at a private hospital in Hyderabad early Friday, **report Nirupa Vatyam & Shiva Kumar Pinna**.

As RTC workers' strike entered its third day amid ongoing talks with state govt, another driver attempted suicide at Bhupalpally depot in Jayashakar Bhupalpally district by consuming poison. Police said he is stable.

Meanwhile, condition of G Linga Reddy from Bhadrachalam depot in Bhadradri Kothagudem district, who consumed paraquat on Day 2 of the strike, remained critical on Friday. Chief minister A Revanth Reddy has expressed shock over Goud's death. State govt announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh for his family.

1st Bnei Menashe grp from Mizoram reaches Israel

HC Vanlalruata | TNN

Aizawl: About 240 Bnei Menashe community members from Mizoram landed at Ben Gurion Airport Friday, the first such group to reach Israel since that country's govt decided in Nov to fund the immigration of around 6,000 community members from Mizoram and Manipur.

Chawimawii, who was part of the group, told **TOI** over phone that Israeli authorities granted them citizenship on arrival and a grand reception was organised at the airport. They will be living in Nazareth, in northern Israel. She added more community members would leave Delhi for Israel by next week and that some Bnei Menashe from Manipur were also expected to reach Israel soon.

TOI

The 240 community members were granted citizenship. The Bnei Menashe regard themselves as the lost tribe of Israel

Israel plans to fly 1,200 Bnei Menashe to the country during 2026, with two additional flights scheduled in the next two weeks, according to its integration ministry.

Around 300 members each from Mizoram and Manipur were selected by nine rabbis who visited Aizawl during the first part of Dec. Israel has approved a plan to absorb nearly 6,000 Bnei Menashe living Mizoram and Manipur in a phased manner by 2030.

Shavei Israel, an organisation that seeks to trace descendants of lost tribes and that facilitated the community's immigration, said some 4,000 Bnei Menashe immigrated to Israel since the 1990s from Manipur and Mizoram, with around 7,000 still living in India.

Bnei Menashe regard themselves as the lost tribe of Israel. Their oral history tells of a centuries-long exodus through Persia, Afghanistan, Tibet and China, while adhering to certain Jewish religious practices. In India, they converted to Christianity in the 19th century. Newcomers would need to convert to Judaism to become Israeli citizens.

'Not' of my will: SI twists woman's statement, leads to lover's arrest

Bareilly: A sub-inspector in Shahjahanpur, UP, has been suspended for allegedly altering a woman's testimony by inserting the word "not" in her statement to falsely claim that her elopement was "without consent", leading to her lover's arrest, **reports Krishna Chaudhary**. Both are in their 20s. The cop was apparently acting "as per senior officers' instructions in elopement cases involving minors".

SP (rural) Bhaware Deeksha Arun said SI Sanjeev Kumar was found guilty in a court-ordered probe. "The SI might have misunderstood the instructions. The direction was merely for cases involving minor victims as their consent doesn't count," said the SP.

The woman was presented before magistrate on April 16, and her written statement was found tampered with. The magistrate ordered production of video evidence in which she said she had eloped with her consent. Her written statement was altered to "I did not go of my own will" from the original "I did go of my own will".

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites expression of interest (EoI) for the following Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) from eligible consultants:

1.Consulting services: Hiring of Productive Alliance Expert (International Consultant)

Last date of submission of EoI is 23rd May 2026, 11:00 AM

The tender Document can be downloaded from KERA website (**https://kera.kerala.gov.in/notifications**) starting from **24th April 2026**, 10:00 AM.

Sd/-
Project Director

Government of Kerala
TENDER
FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT

Window No:iprd 26/e 44 • E-auction No:KFDDO/65783/2025-DFO TSPBVR/A2 • Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Perumbavoor, Mudikkal P.O-683547, Phone-0484-2522219 • E-auction of timber on 04/05, 12/05, 21/05, 28/05/2026, 05/06, 09/06, 18/06, 29/06/2026 from Chalakudy, veettoor, Mudickal, Chettikulam & Varapuzha depots of Timber sales division, Perumbavoor • PAC : 4 Crore.

Full details on Tender Advertisement appeared above are exhibited before the Office from which the tender originates.For Details on all Tenders above please visit notice board.kerala.gov.in/tender.Please put in search the Window No for getting the advertisement of your choice. **R.O. No. 56/62/2026/PRD.**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for Selection of Agency for "Collection, Treatment, Processing and Disposal/ Reuse of STP Sludge (Approx. 58 TPD) at STP Diggian Sector 66, Mohali, SAS Nagar under Municipal Corporation Chandigarh".

Municipal Corporation Chandigarh intends to Selection of Agency for "Collection, Treatment, Processing and Disposal/ Reuse of STP Sludge (Approx. 58 TPD) at STP Diggian Sector 66, Mohali, SAS Nagar under Municipal Corporation Chandigarh". EOI document can be downloaded from **etenderschd@nic.in**. The interested experienced and eligible entities may participate on or before **11.05.2026.**

Executive Engineer
M.C.P.H. Division No.4,
Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders were invited for supply of **1) 3,600 Kgs of Instant coffee chicory Mixture 2) 9,500 Kgs of Almonds 3) 90,000 Kgs of Cardamom (Elachi) 8 mm Size (CGEB) Variety** through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http:// www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, FAX No: 0877-2264554.

TTD-40021(31)/1/2026 - PRO SEC (Adv. No 24). Date - 24.04.2026 **Executive Officer**

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/S.A.P./CW1/03/T-741/2026-27/349 Date: 24-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites (Two Cover Systems) E-tenders for the following work through E-procurement tendering mode. **Name of Work : Tender for Printing and Supply of Printing Stationery items required for the Forth Coming Examinations to VTU Examination Section, Belagavi on Annual Rate Contract Basis for period of One Year. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 51,39,584/-. EMD : Rs. 1,03,000/-. Last Date for receipt of Tender : 08-05-2026 upto 2.30 p.m. Date of Opening of Tender : 09-05-2026 at 4.00 p.m.** The details regarding participation in the e-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our **VTU Website : www.vtu.ac.in** and KPPP portal **Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Registrar.
V.T.U., Belagavi,

DIPR/Belagavi/153/Manipal/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/EE-2/Tender-01/2026-27 Date: 24.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Additional and Infrastructure works to (ST) MDRS Complex at Kundana, Devanahalli Taluk in Bengaluru Rural District in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 818)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **24.04.2026.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **23.05.2026.** The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-2
KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/342/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/12/2026-ADMN/282755 Date: 24.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

Short term Tenders have been invited on 24.04.2026 for **Supply of Shoes, Socks, Tie & Belts to Residential Schools/Colleges functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Karnataka,** through e-Portal vide Indent No. **KREIS/2026-27/IND0095** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **15.05.2026.** The details may be viewed in the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin)
and Tender Inviting Authority, KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/358/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಂಘ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:-E-Mail:rchovijayanagara@gmail.com

No:/NHM/Tender/Vehicle/21/2025-26 Date:18/04/2026

TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLES

E-tenders (Online) are invited through E-Procurement Portal from reputed parties/agencies supplying of 18 (11 under RBSK Programme and 7 other programmes) vehicles with drivers on outsource-basis for official use of Various National Programmes of Health & Welfare department, Vijayanagara District under National Health Mission. Interested Parties/ Agencies who are willing to comply with the terms and conditions annexed to this notice, may submit their bids online as given in the instructions for online bid .

The tender schedule under e-procurement system is as follows 01.Date of Tender Notification: **21-04-2026 11.30am.** 02.Last date for submission of Tender documentes: **11-05-2026 5.00pm.** 03.Pre Bid meeting: **02-05-2026 15.30 pm.** 04.Date of opening of Technical Bid: **12-05-2026 5.30pm.** 05.Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **16-05-2026 11.30am.** 06.Estimated Tender Amount: **79,80,000/-.** 07.EMD Amount: **1,59,600/-.** 08.Place of Tender Opening: **DHO Office Vijayanagara**

For Further information can be obtained from District RCH officer, Vijayanagar District in office hours. Mo.No:-7892724423.

Sd/-Member Secretary, District Health and Family Welfare Society, Vijayanagar District.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/46

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.
No.: EE/PRE/DS/S.H./KW-1&2&3/AE/JE/2026-27/234
Date: 23.04.2026

Tender Notice (Through "K.P.P.P.")

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara invites Itemwar e-Tender subject to KW-1&2&3 (Standard Tender Document) Rules from eligible, contractors registered in Public Works Department and Registered in "K.P.P.P." Institution for the works under S.D.M.F. for the year 2025-26 and Adarsha Village for the year 2024-25 and M.G.N.R.E.G.A. Unification scheme coming in the limits of this Division.

1. Date for downloading Tender Form from: 27.04.2026 to 04.05.2026 **2.** Last date to submit Tender Form: 04.05.2026, 17.00 Hrs. **3.** Date of opening bid: 05.05.2026, 17.01 Hrs.

1. GENERAL Category Work: 25533, 25440, 25502, 23062/CALL 3 **2.** SC Category Works: 26320,23059/CALL-3 **3**. ST Category Works: 26319

For details of "K.P.P.P." website tender contact the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagara and can be viewed in "K.P.P.P." website (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) and can be downloaded. Further information can be obtained from the concerned case worker of this office on phone No. 08183-226064 during office hours or contact helpdesk phone No.: 080-25501216, 25501227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Sagara

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/122,/04/134

K-tech STARTUP KARNATAKA

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Ref: ITBT/4/MDA/26-SO-ITBT SEC

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), invite applications from Industry partners/Association, Private/State/Central Universities and Centre of Excellences (CoEs) set up by Government of Karnataka or Government of India and Research Institutions to conduct technology Bootcamp sessions across Karnataka, under LEAP (Local Economy Accelerator Program).

The interested Industry partners/Association, Private/State/ Central Universities, Centre of Excellences (CoEs) and Research Institutions are required to submit the application in the prescribed form along with the necessary enclosures available in the Department website: https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/ and apply in online form link :https://forms.gle/MobWKeJBqDRLdUub8 along with Annexures (printed on letter head) should be emailed to: leap.bootcamp2026@gmail.com.

Call for proposals document can be accessed on the Department website

The deadline for submission of application is **05/05/2026, 05:00 PM.** Refer Call for Proposals document for eligibility criteria, declaration letter and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231007
E-mail: leap.bootcamp2026@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/356/AKAR/2026-27

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION
(An autonomous body of GOI under the aegis of M/o Housing & Urban Affairs)
9th Floor, 'B' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001.
Ph – 23717249/23355408/23322192, E-mail: cgewho@nic.in Website: www.cgewho.in

Notice Inviting e-Tenders (NIT)
Construction of Group Housing Project at Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) has engaged Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWHO), for construction of Multi-Storied-Building comprising of 152 Dwelling Units for the proposed Group Housing Project at Plot No.28, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP.

CGEWHO, on behalf of HUDCO, invites online offers in two bid system from eligible, reputed and experienced Construction Agencies. The tender document, along with details of the minimum pre-qualification criteria, can be downloaded from www.tenderwizard.com/CGEWHO, www.cgewho.in, www.eprocure.gov.in, or www.hudco.org.in starting from 25/04/2026. Bidders are required to submit their bids exclusively through www.tenderwizard.com/CGEWHO.

NIT No.	T-801/4/1/Vol. I dated 25/04/2026
Name of Work	Construction of Group Housing Project at Vaishali, Ghaziabad for HUDCO
Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	140.00 Cr
EMD (in Rs.)	1,50,00,000/-
Time of Completion	36 Months (including Monsoon Period)
Tender/Document Fee	Rs. 30,000/- + GST @ 18%
Tender Document Available Online	25/04/2026 at 3:00 pm
Pre-Bid Meeting at (CGEWHO's Head Office)	13/05/2026 at 11:00 am
Last date of Submission of Bids	25/05/2026 at 03:00 pm
Opening of Technical Bids	25/05/2026 at 03:30 pm
Opening of Financial Bids	To be informed after the scrutiny of the qualified bidders

Any proposal received not conforming to Tender guidelines will be considered as technically non-compliant and is liable to be rejected. The procedure for selection of construction agency will be made available in the Tender Documents.

Earlier Tender invited for the above said work vide NIT No. T-801/4/1/I/10/2024 dated 22-10-2024 & 08-07-2025 stands cancelled. Bidder who had applied earlier are required to submit fresh applications.

CGEWHO reserves its right to disqualify any or all applications, without assigning any reason thereof. No correspondence in this regard shall be entertained.

Note: No off line submission of tender will be accepted and summarily rejected.

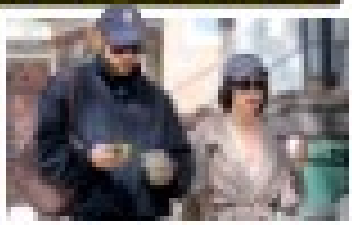
CBC 20105/12/0002/2627

Chief Executive Officer
CGEWHO

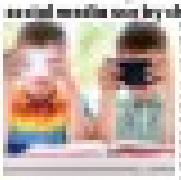
UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Alia wants Ralha to take up sports over acting

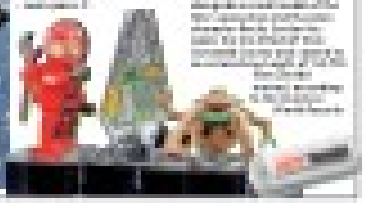
Harry Styles engaged to Zoe Kravitz after 8 months of dating, says report

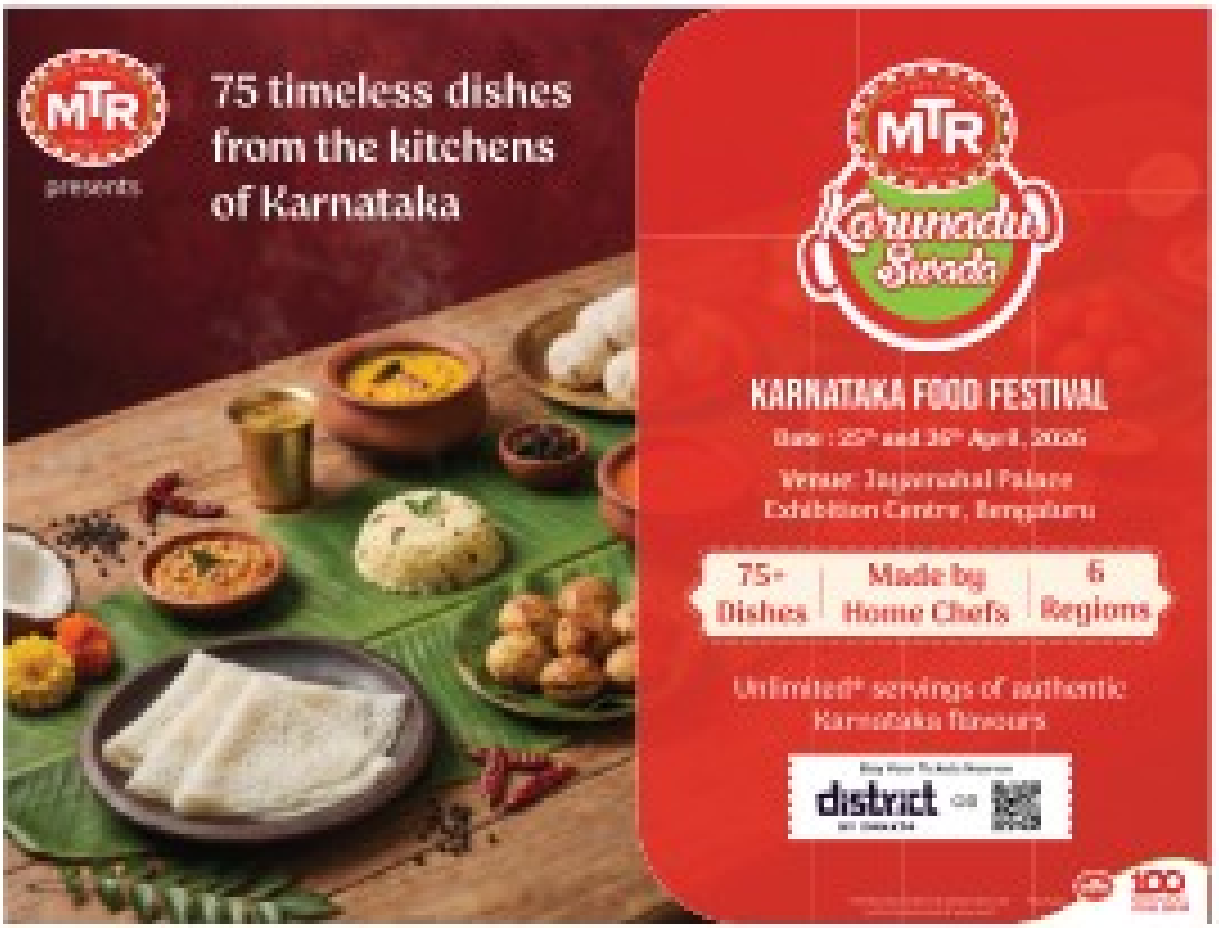


After Australia, Norway plans to ban social media use by children under 16



Bryan Cooling's $200 takes a record-breaking space trip





Wedding guest chasing a man falls in Mumbai sewage system pit, dies

Sanjeev Devasia & Ahmed Ali | TNN

SITE OF ACCIDENT

Mumbai: A wedding function in Bhandup West ended in a tragedy as one of the attendees died after falling into a 30-ft-deep sewage sytem pit in an under-construction SRA building in the vicinity, while chasing a man who allegedly made gestures at a woman, around 11.30pm on Thursday.

Following this, seven of the attendees at the wedding in Matoshri Hall and three labourers at the SRA site, who attempted to rescue the victim, Bhalchandra Falle (25), also fell into the pit that was filled with up to 5 ft of water.

According to fire brigade officials, the pit was covered with loose metal and wooden planks. "These planks slipped when people stepped on them while trying to rescue the man who was the first to fall into the pit. Subsequently, labourers and locals managed to get about 9 of those who had fallen out of the pit by using a ladder and sent them to hospitals," said a fire brigade official.

"The site is a complicated one in terms of the location and the space around it, and it did not have much leeway for a rescue operation. We continued our operations through the day on Friday and the BMC ward office too deployed a dewatering pump and we finally managed to drain the entire pit at around 3 pm on Friday," said a fire officer.

DCP Hemraj Rajput said a group, including the woman, attending the wedding was standing outside the hall. Around this time, three to four youngsters waved out to the group and there was some confusion over whether they were making gestures at the girl. This led to a fight. The group waiting outside the hall gave a chase to the youngsters who had waved out. In the melee, one of the youngsters rushed inside the under-construction building. One among the wedding party chasing the youth fell into the septic tank and died.

He said based on a complaint by a relative of the deceased, an FIR has been lodged against Shraddha Developers.

Assam lynching case verdict would be challenged in Gauhati high court, says lawyer

▶ Continued from page 1

The court had acquitted 25 accused. The lawyer for those sentenced declared that the verdict would be challenged. "We will challenge verdict in Gauhati high court. The case does not have any ingredients to convict under the murder charge. They should have been convicted under the 'culpable homicide not amounting to murder' charge under IPC as they had no intention to kill," lawyer Manas Sarania said.

Special public prosecutor Z Kamar also expressed dissatisfaction, suggesting the 20 should have got harsher punishment. "In my opinion, it was the rarest of rare cases. But the court said it was not and awarded life sentences.," Kamar said.

To check fraud, all med students told to work during NEET on May 2 & 3

New Delhi: In a bid to shut out any exam-day impersonators, National Medical Commission has prohibited medical students from taking a leave on May 2 and 3. The move, timed right before the NEET-UG 2026 exam, is aimed at tightening security and preventing any 'Munna Bhai'-style mischief, reports **Anuja Jaiswal**.

In a public notice issued on Thursday, NMC asked institutions to remain vigilant and sensitise students against any involvement in activities that could compromise the conduct of the exam.

The move follows instructions from the higher education department under the education ministry, which flagged past instances.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Karnataka Government Secretariat, Vikasa Soudha,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru.
NO: DOH 57 RERA 2026 Dated: 24-04-2026

NOTIFICATION

In continuation of the Notification No. DOH 57 RERA 2026, Dated: 24-03-2026, the Last Date for Submitting Application for the Post of Technical / Administrative Member in the Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Bengaluru, is extended to **13-05-2026 till 5.00 PM.** All other terms & conditions of the original notification remain the same.

By Order and in the name of the
Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(HEMAVATHI)
Under Secretary to Government,
Housing Department (RERA).

DIPR/CP/363/Adverto/2026-27

पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद और लोक चिकित्सा अनुसंधान संस्थान
(आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
NORTH EASTERN INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA & FOLK MEDICINE RESEARCH
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India)

File No.: Admin-16011/1/2025-NEIAFMR-ADMIN Date: 06.04.2026

RECRUITMENT
(Advertisement No. 02/2026)

The North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR), Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, an Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, invites applications from eligible Indian Citizens and regular employees of Central Government/State Government/Autonomous Organizations for filling up the following Teaching and Non-Teaching posts on Direct Recruitment/Deputation (including Short-Term Contract) basis.

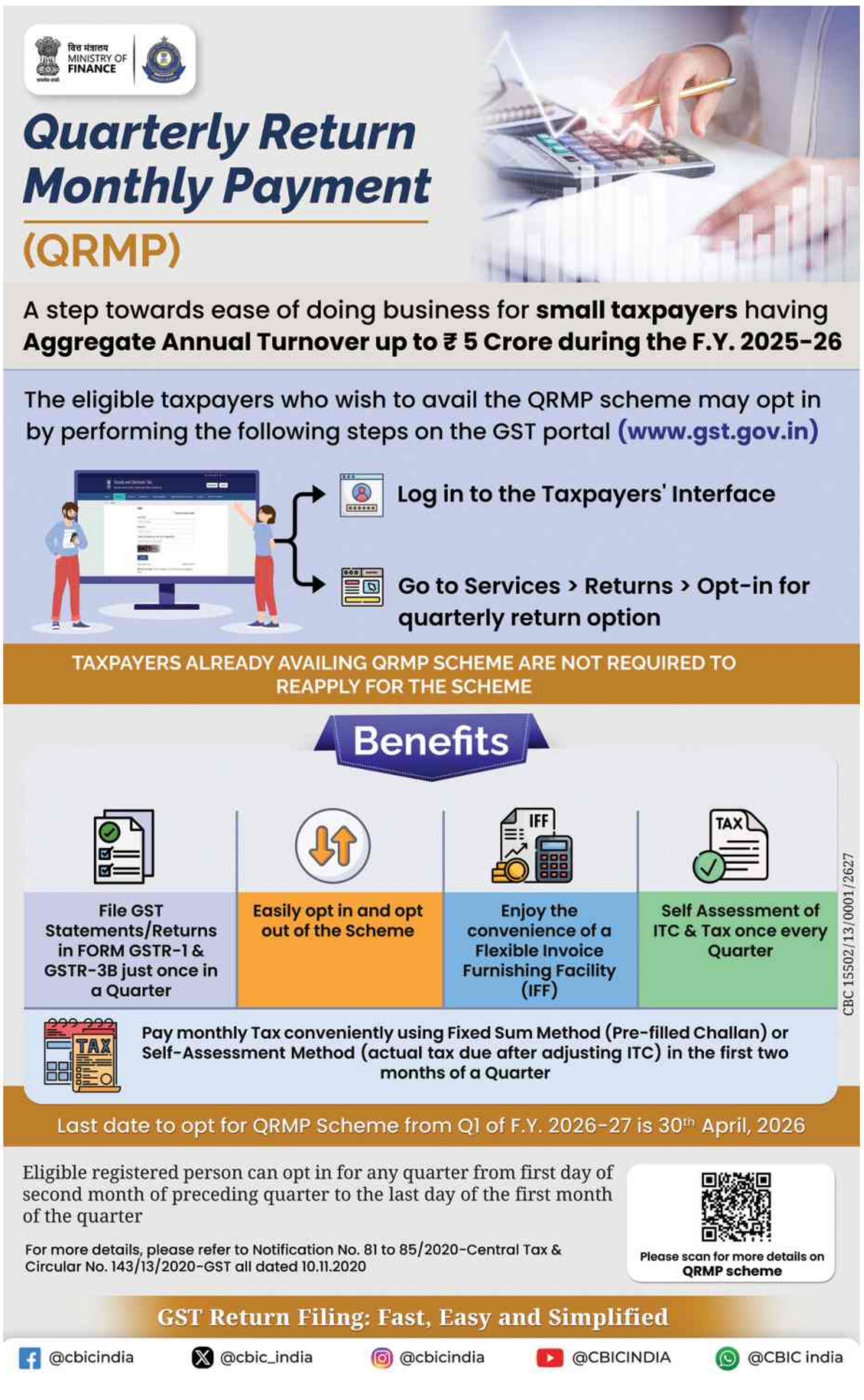
S. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
1	**Professor (Ayurveda)**	1 (One) UR
2	**Associate Professor (Ayurveda)** [Agada Tantra; Dravyaguna; Kaumarabhritya; Kriya Sharira; Samhita & Siddhanta; Roganidan; Swasthavritta & Yoga]	7 (Seven)
3	**Associate Professor (Ayurveda)** [Kayachikitsa-UR; Panchakarma-UR; Prasuti Tantra Stri Roga-UR; Rachna Sharir-OBC; Rasa Shastra-UR; Shalakya-UR; Shalya-SC]	7 (Seven) [Gen-5; OBC-1; SC-1]
4	**Assistant Professor (Ayurveda)** Kayachikitsa-EWS; Roganidan-SC	2 (Two) [1-SC; 1-EWS]
5	**Pathologist**	1 (One) UR
6	**Pediatrician**	1 (One) UR
7	**Obstetrician & Gynecologist**	1 (One) UR
8	**Anesthesiologist**	1 (One) UR
9	**Ophthalmologist**	1 (One) UR
10	**Radiologist**	1 (One) UR
11	**Pharmacognosist**	1 (One) UR
12	**Ethnobotanist**	1 (One) UR
13	**Herbarium Curator/Museum Curator**	1 (One) UR
14	**Resident Medical Officer**	3 (Three) UR
15	**Senior Assistant**	2 (Two) UR
16	**Panchakarma Assistant (Male)**	2 (Two) UR
17	**Panchakarma Assistant (Female)**	2 (Two) UR

How to Apply: Application in the prescribed format (available on the website: www.neiafmr.org.in) along with self-attested copies of required documents and Demand Draft, should be sent through proper channel to **the Director, North Easter Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research, Pasighat – 791102, Arunachal Pradesh** within **45 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in ***Employment News***.

Note: Detailed eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, and application format are available on the Institute's website www.neiafmr.org.in.

-Sd-
Director,
NEIAFMR, Pasighat

cbc17218/12/0001/2627



Bangalore Times

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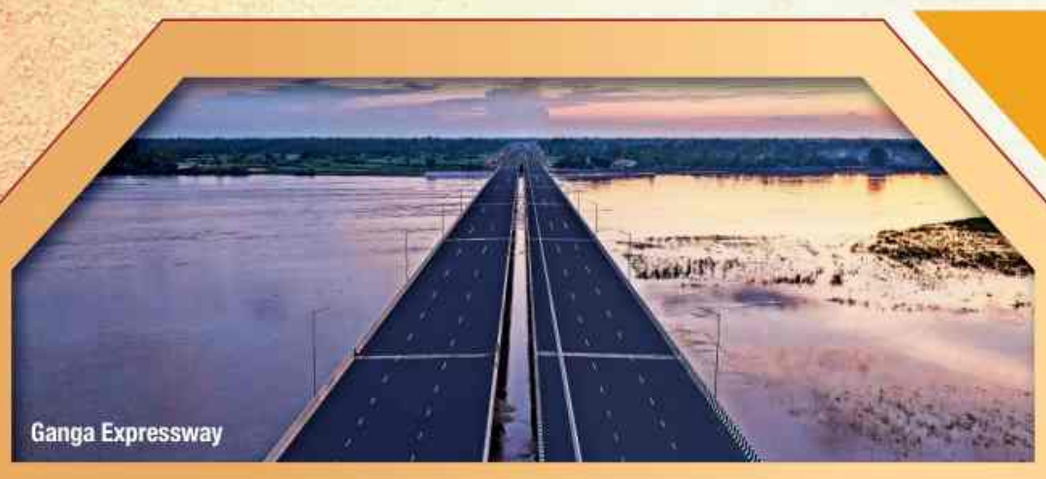
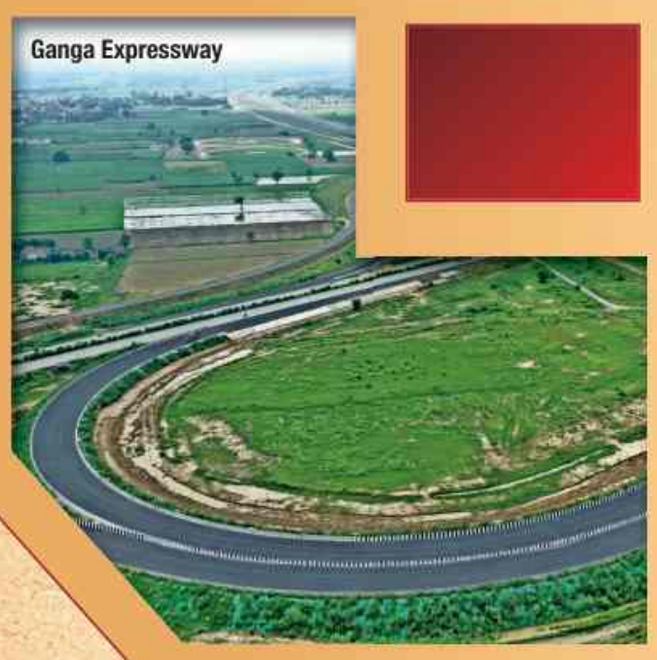
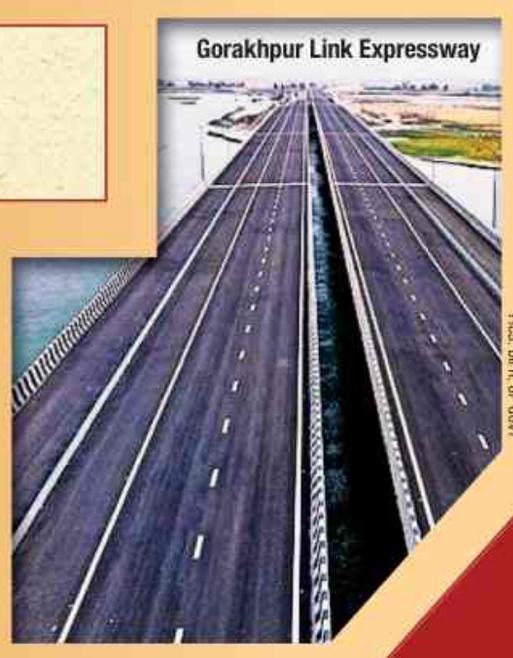
UTTAR PRADESH'S

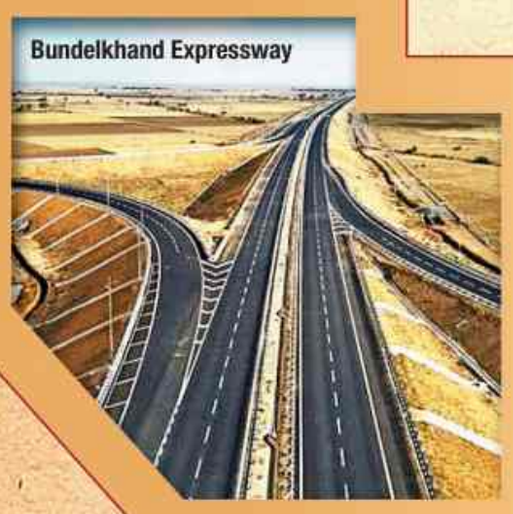
DEFINING TRANSFORMATION OVER


Ganga Expressway


Ganga Expressway

Purvanchal Expressway


Gorakhpur Link Expressway

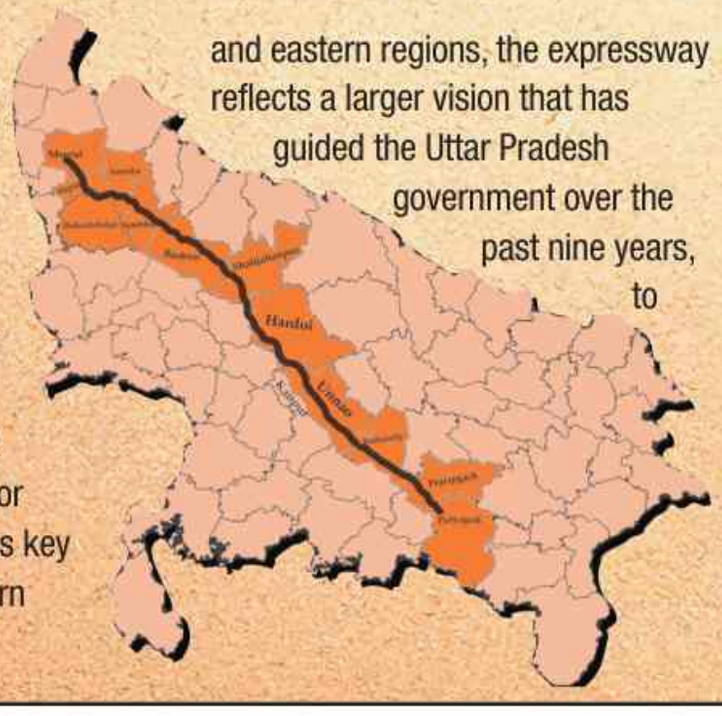

Bundelkhand Expressway

PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

YEARS

- The Ganga Expressway is being inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi, which marks a major milestone in the state's infrastructure development, directly benefiting crores of people
- The inauguration will open the 594-km-long expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj to the public
- The Ganga Expressway will connect 12 districts, including Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj
- At present, Uttar Pradesh accounts for around 55% of the country's total expressway network
- With the inauguration of the Ganga Expressway, this share will increase to nearly 60%, further strengthening UP's position as a leading state in expressway development
- As many as 27 locations in 26 districts neighbouring the expressways in the state have been identified for industrial development
- At present, 90 National Highways pass through Uttar Pradesh
- UP has the second most expansive network of National Highways in the country
- Uttar Pradesh leads the nation in the implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

GOLDEN ERA OF ROADWAYS CONNECTIVITY

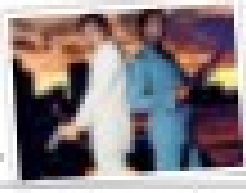


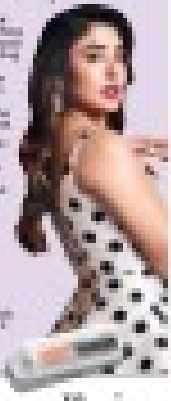
The inauguration of the Ganga Expressway marks a defining milestone in Uttar Pradesh's infrastructure journey, symbolising not just the construction of a major e-way but the emergence of a new growth corridor for the state. Stretching across key districts and linking western and eastern regions, the expressway reflects a larger vision that has guided the Uttar Pradesh government over the past nine years, to transform connectivity into a catalyst for economic expansion, industrial development and employment generation. Over this period, UP has steadily earned the distinction of being called the 'Expressway Capital of India'. Landmark projects such as the Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, Gorakhpur Link Expressway, and Yamuna Expressway have collectively reshaped the state's physical landscape. These high-speed corridors are not standalone achievements; they are part of an integrated road network designed to connect remote regions with economic hubs, reduce travel time, and unlock the potential of districts that were once considered geographically distant. In essence, improved road infrastructure has opened up stronger prospects for both investors and the people of UP.

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

'Over 65-70% moviegoers book movie tickets online'

Miami Vice '85 locks Jordan, Butler as leads





HEER HELP DECIDING WHAT TO WATCH? WE'VE GOT YOU

KRITIKA KAMRA

73% say going to cinema is good for their wellbeing

FILM REVIEWS

NOW IN CINEMAS

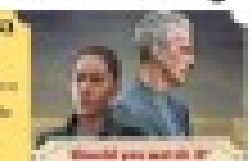
Thriller in Jaafar Jackson's performance, filler in narrative

A simple, honest look at life, loss, and a painful choice

OTT REVIEWS

NOW STREAMING

Peter Capaldi leads a layered story that is real & unsettling



A slow-burn cult drama that lingers beyond its flaws

4 volunteers severely injured: Naga group

▶ Continued from page 1

Naga Village Guard central command issued a statement late Friday evening refuting Kuki claims of an attack on Mullam by Tangkhul Naga volunteers.

Tangkhul Naga Long working committee said a 29-year-old Tangkhul Naga, Horshokmi Jamang, was killed by suspected Kuki-Zo militants in an ambush near Sinakeithei village early Friday morning.

It said Jamang was a member of NVG patrolling Sinakeithei due to ongoing disturbances when the ambush occurred. NVG said apart from Jamang's death, four other volunteers had been severely injured.

IANS

A family member mourns as bodies of three civilians — killed in firing by security forces following violent protests over deaths of two children in a bomb attack on April 7 in Manipur's Bishnupur district — were handed over on Friday to the families and the last rites performed

The two deceased Kuki-Zo, whose bodies were found by security forces near Mullam village in the district, have been identified as Paominlun Haolai (22) and Letlal Sitlhou (41). The Bungi-Ihan defence committee in Kangpokpi district claimed they were Kuki-Zo village volunteers who died defending Mullam village from an attack by Tangkhul militants. The Kuki Inpi Manipur, in a statement early Friday morning, claimed Mullam village came under armed attack by Tangkhul militants. It claimed that besides the two Kuki village volunteers being killed, 17 houses were burned, several villagers were injured, and many others, including women and children, were displaced.

The NSCN (Aleng Group) claimed five KNA-B cadres had entered India with plans to attack local villages. The NSCN group claimed the five militants were "eliminated" in retaliation for the April 18 killing of two Naga men near T M Kasom village and recent firing incidents. There is no official confirmation of these claims. KNA-B, in a statement from Myanmar's Sagaing region, dismissed reports linking its soldiers to the video showing blindfolded youths being targeted. It called the allegations "baseless and false".

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E- Tender Notice
TENDER NOTICE No. N-235-62 Tele Tender 04-2026

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Tele/ HQ, N. E. Railway, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following works from the contractors having sufficient experience as per eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document. **1. Tender No. :** N-235-62 Tele Tender 04-2026, **2.** Name of work: "Upgradation of Datacom equipment's (UTN devices) and network connectivity in connection with PRS/UTS modernization at Tier-2, 3 & 4 locations of Izzatnagar, Lucknow, Varanasi division and HQ Gorakhpur over N.E. Railway." **3.** Tender Value: ₹ 10,88,11,978.43/- (Rs. Ten Crore Eighty Eight Lakh Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Rupees & Forty Three Paisa only) **4** Bid Security: ₹ 2176200.00/-, **5.** Validity of offer : 90 days, **6.** Date & Time of closing and opening of Tender: Dated 22.05.2026 at 12:30 Hrs. **7.** Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months, **8.** For any changes of tender, please check on internet website for Corrigendum of the original tender notice. **9.** Detailed tender notice, documents, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in Note:** The Tenderer's/bidder's must upload all relevant attachments/ Format/ Annexure along with their bid.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele/HQ
CPRO/Sig.-17 N. E. Railway, Gorakhpur

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER COMPANY LTD.

Request for Proposal for Design, Supply, Erection, Integration with different existing standalone CCTV systems and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System at GIPCL RE-Park, Khavda, Dist. Kachchh in the State of Gujarat for 2375 MW capacity Wind / Solar/ Wind-Solar Hybrid Renewable Energy Park

Interested Bidders may submit their Bids on Two Part basis through (n) Procure **(Tender ID : 298812)**. It can also be viewed from Company's website **www.gipcl.com. The last date of on-line submission of Bid is 19.05.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.**

GENERAL MANAGER (RE Projects)

National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research Bhopal
(Deemed to be University under Distinct Category)
Ministry of Education, Government of India
Shanti Marg, Shyamala Hills, Bhopal-462002. Website: www.nitttrbpl.ac.in

Advt. No. 1/2026-27

Online Applications are invited for appointments in the Teaching and Non-Teaching positions. For details, please visit the institute website **www.nitttrbpl.ac.in.** and Employment News.

Director

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

DNB FINAL EXAMINATION – JUNE 2026
NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the DNB Final Theory Examinations on **18th, 19th, 20th and 21st June 2026.**

The online applications are being invited from **24-04-2026** (03:00PM onwards) **to 14-05-2026** (till 11:55 PM) at NBEMS website:
https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=dnb

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
RISHIKESH-249203

Advt. No. 2026/07 Date: 20.04.2016

ADVERTISEMENT

Online applications are invited for Faculty posts in various departments on direct/deputation basis vide Advt. No. **2026/07** in AIIMS, Rishikesh. Detailed advertisement and other conditions are available on the institute website www.aiimsrishikesh.edu.in.

Executive Director AIIMS, Rishikesh

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, NEW PUBLIC OFFICES, NRUPATUNGA ROAD, BANGALORE-560 001, Mobile : 9448999424
WEBSITE : (http://www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in)

No:DPI-CPI0PLN1/IVA-TENDER/2026-27 Date:24/04/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bengaluru invites short term tender for identification of Independent Verification Agency for developing 500 KPS in coordination with Asian Development Bank.

1	RFP Reference No.	**DPI/2026-27/SE0441**
2	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	**24/04/2026 onwards**
3	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**30/04/2026 5:30 PM**
4	Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	**30/04/2026 11:00 AM** at the following venue: Office of Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K R Circle, Bengaluru
5	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**11/05/2026 5:00 PM**
6	Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications	**12/05/2026 5:10 PM**
7	Place of Opening of RFP Applications	**Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal**
8	Date and time of presentation for methodology on the project	**15/05/2026 12:00 PM**
9	Address for Communication	Office of the Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K R Circle, Bengaluru-560001 Email: ddpiplanning@gmail.com Contact:080-22270072, 9448999424

Note: 1) Completed tenders shall be uploaded through e-tendering system by the Tenderers using their User ID on or before the last date & time stipulated. **2)** In the event of the specified date of opening of Technical Bid (First Cover) being declared a holiday for the Purchaser, the Technical Bid will be opened on the next working day. **3)** Only Online Queries through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.

Sd/-
DDPI(PLANNING)

DIPR/CP/JA/361/2026-27

Unique Identification Authority of India
4th Floor Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi – 110 001

Vacancy circular for filling up the posts of Director (Technology) on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) in Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Technology Centre, Bengaluru

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) invites applications on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) for two posts of Director (Technology) at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Technology Centre, Bengaluru.

The application may be furnished in the prescribed proforma and forwarded to the Director (HR), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), 4th Floor, Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi- 110 001. The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is **13.05.2026.** Since these vacancies are to be filled up on deputation basis, private candidates are not eligible.

Applications received after the last date or otherwise found incomplete shall not be considered. Further details, including the terms and conditions of deputation and application procedure, are available on the Authority's website at **https://uidai.gov.in/images/VC_31_2026.pdf.**

CBC 54103/11/0005/2627 **Director (HR)**

Now Aadhaar Enrolment & Update Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit uidai.gov.in or call 1947

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
National Institute of Public Health Training & Research,
332, S.V.P. ROAD, KHETWADI, GIRGAON, MUMBAI - 400 004, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

ADMISSION NOTICE (2026-27)

National Institute of Public Health Training & Research, Mumbai, a Central Training Institute under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India invites applications in the prescribed format (as given on the website) for the following post-graduate course for the academic year 2026-28.

Regular Course	Duration	No. of Seats	Eligibility
Master of Public Health (MPH) (affiliated to MUHS Nashik)	**Two years**	**10**	**Health Sciences graduates**

The detailed notification for admission and eligibility criteria, no. of seats, duration, fee structure etc. are available at https://www.niphtr.mohfw.gov.in, The last date for submission of completed application by online or registered/speed post is 24th May 2026.

Sd-
DIRECTOR / निदेशक
N.I.P.H.T.R., Mumbai / एन.आय.पी.एच.टी.आर., मुंबई-४

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Govt. of India proposes to engage the services of suitable candidates for various positions on contract basis for providing support in implementation of Annual Action Plan (AAP) under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA programme.

Centre for Wage Employment and Livelihoods (CWEL) of NIRDPR invites online applications for below mentioned contractual positions:

Sl. No	Name of the Position / Area	No. of Positions	Remuneration Per Month (Rs.)
1	Junior Fellow – Capacity Building	2	75,000
2	Junior Fellow – Works (NRM Convergence)	1	75,000
3	Junior Fellow – Infrastructure	1	75,000
4	Junior Fellow – Social Audit	1	75,000
5	Research Associates	2	60,000
6	Academic Associate – Capacity Building	3	60,000
7	Academic Associate – Infrastructure	1	60,000
8	Academic Associate – Social Audit	1	60,000
9	Junior Accountant (Finance)	1	60,000
10	Senior Accountant cum Administrator (Finance)	1	1,20,000
Total		14	

For Eligibility Criteria, Online submission of application and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**

Last date for submission of online application is **11/05/2026**

Advt.No.2/2026
File No: NIRDPR/AAP-MGNREGA/EXTENSION/2023
Comp.no. 16018

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that our client proposes to acquire the property described in the schedule hereinbelow, referred to as the "Schedule Property", from its owners, **Smt. Chandra A Pirgal wife of late Anand Pirgal, Smt. Neha A Pirgal, Smt. Naina A Pirgal, Smt. Pooja A. Pirgal and Sri. Siddarth A Pirgal.** Smt. Chandra A Pirgal and Smt. Naina A Pirgal, both are residing at No. 39, Sanghvi Haveli, Govindappa Road, Opposite Jain Temple, Basavanagudi, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560004. Smt. Neha A Pirgal, residing at No.10, O No. 16, Valmiki Street, VTC Thiyagaraya Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600017. Smt. Pooja A. Pirgal, residing at No. 4, NR Road, Opposite Town Hall, N.R. Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560002. Sri. Siddarth A Pirgal, residing at No.4/1, 1st Floor, Pirgal Arcade, N R Road, Town Hall, Kalasipalayam, Bengaluru – 560002.

Any individuals or entities asserting any right, title, interest, or claim of any nature in the Schedule Property or any portion thereof, or opposing the aforementioned sale to our client, are required to submit their objections in writing, accompanied by all pertinent documentary proofs, to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Failure to lodge such claims or objections within the specified period will lead to the presumption that the Schedule Property is unencumbered by any claim or interest, thereby enabling our client to proceed with the consummation of the sale transaction.

: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of residentially converted property consisting of 1) Katha No. 286/125/4, EPID No. 152900402100720241 (Survey No. 125/4, old Survey No. 125/3) measuring 1 Acre 28 G (6879.66 sq mts), 2) Katha No. 287/125/5, EPID No. 152900402100720242 (Survey No. 125/5, old Survey No. 125/1) measuring 1 Acre 34G (7486.68 sq mts), 3) Katha No. 288/125/6, EPID No. 152900402100720243 (Survey No. 125/6, old Survey No. 125/2) measuring 1 Acre 34 G (7486.68 sq mts), all situated at Kethohalli Village, Kasaba 1 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru. The specifics of the boundaries of the property are delineated as follows:

Sl No.	Village Panchayat Katha Number (Survey Nos)	Extent	East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	Katha No.286/125/4 (Survey No. 125/4, old Survey No.125/3)	1 Acre 28 G (6879.66 sq mts)	Road Lahi 3	La Survey No.126 and AMP 123	Lahi 6	La Survey Nos. 123, 124
2.	Katha No. 287/125/5 (Survey No. 125/5, old Survey No. 125/1)	1 Acre 34G (7486.68 sq mts)	Road Lahi 1	La Survey No. 126	La Survey No. 127	Lahi 6
3.	Katha No. 288/125/6 (Survey No. 125/6, old Survey No.125/2)	1 Acre 34 G (7486.68 sq mts)	Road Lahi 2	La Survey No. 126	Lahi 5	Lahi 4

Date: 25.04.2026, Bengaluru

Prashanth Mirle, Partner, India Law Practice – ILP
Advocates and Attorneys
4th Floor, JP Square, No.190, Sankey Road, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore 560 080
B: +91 80 2361 2770/3770 | F: +91 80 2361 4770
e-mail: contact@ilplaw.co.in

Government of India, Department of Space
Indian Space Research Organisation
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE
Valiamala.P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695 547

Advertisement No. LPSC/01/2026 dated 25.04.2026

Applications are invited for the following posts for LPSC, Valiamala near Thiruvananthapuram.

Post No.	No. of vacancies	Essential requirements	
Scientist / Engineer 'SC' [Level 10 (Pay Matrix : ₹56,100/- – ₹1,77,500/-)]			
803	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Mechanical / Production Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in Welding Technology / Mechanical Welding and Sheet Metal Engg.	B.E/B Tech or equivalent should be with an aggregate minimum of 65% marks (average of all semesters) or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale. AMIE / Grade IETE candidates should have minimum of 65% marks or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale in Section B alone. M.E./M Tech or equivalent with an aggregate minimum of 60% marks or CGPA / CPI grades of 6.5 on a 10 point scale.
804	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Mechanical Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in Turbo Machinery / Internal Combustion Engines and Turbo Machinery / Internal Combustion Engg.	
805	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Electronics & Communication Engg. / Electronics & Instrumentation Engg./ Applied Electronics Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in Power Electronics / Power Electronics and Control / Power Control and Drives / Advanced Electrical Power System / Electrical and Electronics (Power Systems) / High Voltage and Power Systems Engg. / Industrial Power Control and drives.	
806	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Electronics & Communication Engg./ Electronics & Instrumentation Engg./ Applied Electronics Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in RF and Microwave Engg. / Microwave and Optical Engg. / Microwave Engg. / Microwaves.	
807	02	B.E./B Tech in Metallurgy Engg. / Metallurgical & Materials Engg. / Metallurgy and Material Technology / Metallurgical Engg. / Material Science & Technology.	B.E. / B Tech or equivalent should be with an aggregate minimum of 65% marks (average of all semesters) or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale. AMIE / Grade IETE candidates should have minimum of 65% marks or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale in Section B alone.

Note: The educational qualification (B.E/B.Tech/M.E/M.Tech) should have been completed within the stipulated duration of the course as prescribed by the University.

Age limit as on **12.05.2026** is 30 years for Post Nos. 803 to 806. For Post No. 807, the age limit as on **12.05.2026** is 28 years. Ex-Servicemen, Departmental candidates and Persons With Benchmark Disabilities (PWBD) are eligible for upper age relaxation as per Govt. of India orders. Applications will be received **only through on-line**. Interested candidates may visit the website **www.lpsc.gov.in** for detailed information and filling-up on-line application form. For this purpose, the on-line recruitment portal will be available from **1400 hrs on 28.04.2026 to 1400 hrs on 12.05.2026**.

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
Ministry of Education, Government of India
5 Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070 | Ph : 26707776
Email : nbtpublishingcourse@gmail.com

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- Course fee Rs. 15000 + GST

LAST DATE FOR APPLICATION 20 MAY 2026

For more information and application form : www.nbtindia.gov.in

CBC 21103/11/0006/2627

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which are NPA (Non-performing Asset) or margin breach account/s or any account/s falling into the loan recall clause as specified in the **terms & condition** of the Loan. The Auction would be held as per the schedule provided below:

Loan A/c Number	Base Branch	District 1 Contact	District Auction Date
FEDGL00110014323	BASAVESHWARA NAGAR - 9740831809	BTM Layout - 9980764782	02/05/2026
FEDGL01830015724	SHIMOGA - 9513242321	SHIMOGA - 9513242321	02/05/2026
FEDGL00220019119	HARIHAR - 8147533256	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	06/05/2026
FEDGL00460023281	Gubbi - 7760812077	B H Road - 8904344610	07/05/2026
FEDGL00030008618	BTM LAYOUT 9980764782	BTM Layout - 9980764782	13/05/2026
FEDGL05510001807	T NARASIPURA - 9986835186	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356	14/05/2026
FEDGL00020019209	HOSA ROAD - 8884842475	BTM Layout - 9980764782	15/05/2026
FEDGL00220019192	HARIHAR - 8147533256	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	15/05/2026
FEDGL01570021417	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	16/05/2026
FEDGL01620020244	HANSUR - 9741533219	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356	18/05/2026
FEDGL00050007813	KAMMANAHALLI - 8310471800	BTM Layout - 9980764782	19/05/2026
FEDGL00130010209	SULTHANPLYA - 9353708159	BTM Layout - 9980764782	19/05/2026
FEDGL01360010704	BELGAUM - 9538166084	BELGAUM - 9538166084	19/05/2026
FEDGL00370008486	K R ROAD - 7829541516	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	20/05/2026
FEDGL01800029583	RAMANAGARA - 8197884697	RAMANAGARA - 8197884697	20/05/2026

Change in Venue or Date, if any, will be displayed on our Website https://www.fedfina.com/gold-loan/special-sections/auction-venue/. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit any of the above branch/es or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before auction Date subject to the terms and condition applicable. Auction will be conducted at respective Districts. In case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level as per above schedule. This would continue till the auction process is over. On failure of the first offline auction at District level, auction will also be initiated through the E-auction platforms of SAMIL https://gold.samil.in and/or e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (AuctionTiger) - https://egold.auctiontiger.net/.

All participating bidders will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them.

Dated : 25.04.2026
Place : Karnataka

For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2026-27/ 107
Dt. 21-04-2026.

Short Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 02 works comprising of approved Road, and Building works under 2025-26 CMIDP Works through KPPP portal.

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26219
2.RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26221

Contractors are required to submit the tender before 29-04-2026 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 21-04-2026 to 29-04-2026 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 30-04-2026 at 5.30 PM Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/88

कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)
COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

तिथि/Date: 25-04-2026

निविदा सूचना / TENDER NOTICE

कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (सीएसएल) द्वारा कोच्ची स्थित सीएसएल परिसर में निर्माणाधीन पोतों के कार्यों हेतु निम्नलिखित निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है
Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) invites the following tender enquiry for works in ships under construction in CSL premises, Kochi:

क्र.सं. SL.No	विवरण / Description	जेपनिक निविदा आईडी GePNIC Tender ID:
1	4 बहुउद्देशीय जहाजों में ऑनबोर्ड पाइपिंग और संरचनात्मक साज-सज्जा का कार्य। Onboard Piping And Structural Outfitting Works in 04 Nos Of Multi-Purpose Vessels	2026_CSL_275677_1
2	सेवा संचालन पोत की सतह की तैयारी और रंगाई Surface Preparation & Painting Of Service Operation Vessel	2026_CSL_275676_1
3	दो बहुउद्देशीय पोत की सतह की तैयारी और रंगाई Surface Preparation & Painting Of 2 Nos of Multi-Purpose Vessels	2026_CSL_275647_1

निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय: 1500 बजे, 14 मई 2026 है। The last date and time for receipt of bids is 1500 hrs IST, 14 May 2026.
निविदा के विवरण और शर्तें हमारी वेबसाइट www.cochinshipyard.in या https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app से प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।
The details and conditions of the tenders can be accessed from our website: www.cochinshipyard.in or https:// etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app

ह/- Sd/-
महाप्रबंधक (पोत निर्माण)
General Manager (Ship Building)

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर

ई-मेल- aceregion2jaipur@yahoo.com फोन नं.- 0141-2702700
क्रमांक- अ.मु.अ. क्षे-2/ 2025-26/ 839-850 दिनांक:- 17.04.26

कार्यालय आदेश

इस कार्यालय द्वारा निविदा संख्या 34/ 2025-26 कार्य Water Supply scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Jaipur Heritage, District liability period under Amrut 2.0 NIT no 34/2025-26 को अपरिहार्य कारणों (बी ओ. क्यू में बदलाव एवं अन्य कारण) से एतद् द्वारा निरस्त किया जाता है।

क्रम संख्या	एन.आई.बी	यू.बी.एन कोड	निविदा संख्या
1	PHE2526A6025	PHE2526WLOB12861	34/2025-26

(अजय सिंह राठौड़)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जयपुर

DIPR/C/7306/2026

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No: AGC/TRD/T/2026/06 **E-Tendering Notice** Date: 22/04/2026

Sr. DEE/TRD/Agra for & on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on-line only (e-Tendering) for the following work:

Tender No.: AGCTRDT202606	**Period of completion:** 24 months
Name of work: Maintenance, Repair & Overhauling of components apart from diesel engine of 4 W and 8 W Tower Wagon of Agra division of NC Railway for a period of 24 months	
Approximate Cost: ₹ 2,38,58,670.84	**Earnest Moeny:** ₹ 4,77,200/-

(1) For full details & submission of the bid please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. (2) Tender can only be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 15: 00 Hrs. on date 15.05.2026. 889/26 (MG)

North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ3:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:01:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ– ರಾಜನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬಳಿ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬ್ಯಾರೇಜ್ ಮುಂಭಾಗ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವುದು ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು) ರವರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.inನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 234444 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಆದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

(1) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 02.05.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 (2) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 04.05.2026 ಸಮಯ 17.30 (3) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.05.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/40/ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27
ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

4001/39/2627

idco ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.

Bid Identification No. Civil/EST-50 /2025-26
TCN No 11009, dt. 17.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium, Chindri Block under Koraput District
2. Value of the Work : Rs. 15.77 Crore
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
   I. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt. 28.04.2026.
   II. End date : 15:00 Hours of dt. 15.05.2026.
   III. Opening date : 16.00 Hours of dt. 15.05.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Civil)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0016

34001/89/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA(R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender call Notice
E-mail : rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-02/2026-27
Memo No 879 Dt. 17.04.2026

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work : Building Works
2. No of Work : 3 Nos
3. Tender Cost : Rs. 10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor : A & B Class
5. Available of Bid document in Website : From 10.00 AM of Dt.28.04.2026 to 05.00 PM of the Dt.14.05.2026
6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.15.05.2026 at 11.30AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
M. K. Mahananda
Chief Construction Engineer,
Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
OIPR-34001/34127/1/26-27/0002

25001/40/2627

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serwcbaripada@gmail.com
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Plan Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No.410 for 2026-27.
Letter No.2363/Date 20.04.2026

1. Name of the work : Road Work in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 25-26.
2. Total No. of work : 15 Nos. (Fifteen)
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.298.18 Lakhs to Rs.498.87 Lakhs** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure.
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Road On-line N.C.B. No.410	Dt.28.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.13.05.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.12.05.2026 up to 1.00 P.M.	Dt.14.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- **Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
- **Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.**

Sd/-
A.K Naik
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Baripada.
OIPR-25001/25130/1/26-27/0003

34001/78/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
RFP Identification No. CE-Roads-I-01/2026-27

1. The Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha (Authority) on behalf of the Works Department, Govt. of Odisha is engaged in the Development of State Roads and Highways in Odisha, and, as part of this endeavour, Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake the following **"Projects"** under **EPC Contract** (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, and has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the parties/Joint Ventures to whom the Project may be awarded eventually.
2. Nature of project : Road work
3. No. of project : 1 No.
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs. 10,000.00
5. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 28.04.2026 to 5.30 P.M. of 28.05.2026
6. Date of Pre-Application conference : 10.05.2026 at 12.30 P.M.
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.29.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief (Civil),
Roads-I, Odisha
OIPR-34001/34111/1/26-27/0002

34001/81/2627

e-mail ID - supenger_rbjyp@yahoo.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B) - 04/2026-27

No.2975 **Date. 17.04.2026**

1. Nature of the work : **DEVELOPMENT WORK**
2. Total No. of Works : 01 (One) Nos.
3. Tender cost : **Rs. 7.00 Crs.**
4. Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months.
5. Cost of Bid Document : Rs. 10,000/-
6. Bid Security (EMD) : **Rs. 7.00 Lacs** as per column no. 06 of IFB.
7. Class of Contractor : **"A" & "Special"** Class as per Cl no. 05 of TCN & according to Financial Eligibility.
8. Date & time of availability of bid Document in the portal : from 12:00 hours of 28.04.2026 to 17:00 hours of 12.05.2026
9. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the Portal : 17:00 hours of 12.05.2026
10. Opening date of Bid : 09:00 hours of 13.05.2026
11. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore
OIPR-34001/34108/1/26-27/0006

34001/64/2627

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No-B-II-(OLL&C)-19/2026 Lr. No.- 12993 Bhubaneswar, the 15th April, 2026

Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-I-02/2026-27

1.	The Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, **(1) "Planning, Design, Construction, Restoration and external development of Biplabi Dharanidhara Sangrahalaya at Kusumita Village in Keonjhar District", (2) "Construction of (S+7) Storied Building near MHI for Infrastructure of Centre of Competence, SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack", (3) "Construction of Community Health Centre at Barkote in the district of Deogarh" & (4) "Construction of Additional Classroom and Auditorium Hall at J. N. College, Mahanga in the district of Cuttack"** as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	**Building Works**
3.	No. of work	:	**04 Nos.**
4.	Bid Cost.	:	**Rs. 10,000/-**
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**'A' / Special / Super**
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	**From dt.27.04.2026 to 17.00 Hours of dt.12.05.2026.**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**Dt.13.05.2026 at 11:30 AM.**
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha
OIPR-34001/34117/1/26-27/0008

34001/110/2627

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN SOUDHA BHUBANESWAR
E-mail - seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 05/2026-27
No. 1767 / Date 22.04.2026 /

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : https://tendersorissa.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from dt.27.04.2026 at 05.00 P.M. to dt.12.05.2026 up to 05.00 P.M. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened dt.13.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR
OIPR-34001/34006/1/26-27/0005

34001/87/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-I-02/2026-27

1. The Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below :
2. Nature of work : Road works
3. No. of work : 2 Nos.
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : Special Class / Super Class
6. Available of bid document the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 28.04.2026 to 5.30 PM of 18.05.2026
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.19.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha
OIPR-34001/34034/1/26-27/0002

34001/98/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Short Tender call Notice No.03 of 2026-27
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-03/2026-27

No - 896 Dt. 18.04.2026

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as detailed in the table below:

1.	Nature of Work	:	Road Works
2.	No of Work	:	2 Nos
3.	TenderCost	:	Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4.	Class of Contractor	:	A & B Class
5.	Available of Bid document in Website	:	From10.00 AM of Dt.27.04.2026 to 05.00 PM of Dt. 07.05.2026
6.	Date of opening of Bid	:	Dt. 08.05.2026 at 11.30 AM

1. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in.** Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- **M.K. Mahananda**
Chief Construction Engineer
Khordha (R&B)Circle, Khordha
OIPR-34001/34127/1/26-27/0004

25001/46/2627

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serwcbaripada@gmail.com
Ph-No - 06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
Office Order No. 2387 / Dt. 21.04.26
1st Corrigendum to National Competitive Bidding e_procurement Notice No.2009/Weir on Bridge work, Dt.24.03.2026 (NCB No-408).

Due to unavoidable circumstances the important dates of tendering process for bridge work annexure Sl No-01 **"Construction of Weir adjacent to Bridge over Kushabhadra at 3rd Km on Kaptipada - Podadiha - Kulialum - Sandhei Road in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2024-25,"** is being changed as follows.

Sl No	Item	Time Schedule as per Original NCB	Time Schedule as per Corrigendum Notice
1	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	09.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M to 23.04.2026 up to 05.00 P.M	06.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M to 21.05.2026 up to 05.00 P.M
2	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification if any	22.04.2026 up to 05.00 P.M	20.05.2026 up to 05.00 P.M
3	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	24.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M	22.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M
4	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated later	Will be intimated later

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- **Er. A.K Naik**
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. CIRCLE, BARIPADA
OIPR-25001/25130/1/26-27/0004

25001/51/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE BOLANGIR
e Procurement Notice

1	Name of work	:	Construction of Roads in the district of Bolangir under the Scheme of MMSY-TRIP, MMSY- CMRL for the year 2025-2026
2	No. of works	:	2 (Two) works.
3	Time for completion varies from	:	9 (Nine) Calendar months
4.	Approximate estimated cost varies from	:	Rs. 385.31 lakhs to Rs. 476.02 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	**Other details are as follow**		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir	**BLGR-Online-01/2026-27**	27.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	12.05.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	11.05.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	13.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Bolangir
OIPR-25001/25118/1/26-27/0001

25001/45/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR -754296, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email-serw_kpd@yahoo.com
Letter No.- 2499 Date :- 22.04.2026
1st Corrigendum Notice

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Tender Online RCK-06/26 invited by this office vide Letter No.-1922, Dt.-23.03.2026.
The changes as detailed below are hereby made in the above N.I.T.:-
1 Clause no-06 of NIT modified below :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification		Date & Time of opening of tender			
						Technical Bid		Financial Bid	
		Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara- Jajpur	Tender RCK-06/26	From 10.04.2026 At 11.00 A.M To 28.04.2026 Up to 05.00 P.M	From 28.04.2026 At 11.00 A.M To 11.05.2026 Up to 05.00 P.M	28.04.2026 up to 02.00 P.M	11.05.2026 up to 02.00 P.M	29.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M	Will be intimated later	Will be intimated later

All other conditions of NIT remain unaltered.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur
OIPR-25001/25129/1/26-27/0002

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India,
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in,
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGCO35067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (215)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S/NIB-10/2026/1028 Dated :- 22/04/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items are invited from eligible bidders:-

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Surgical & Sutures Items	F.02 (215)/RMSCL/Proc./ S&S/NIB-10/2026/1023 Dated :- 22/04/2026	MSC2627GLRC00005	6.37 Cr.	06.05.2026 Up to 6.00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL
Raj.Samwad/C/26/1494

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

दिनांक/Dated : 24-04-2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

1. वीआरसी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एवियोनिकी एंटिटि के उन्नत वीडियो प्रतिबिंबन प्रयोगशाला के लिए भवन सं वी-44 का ऊर्ध्वाधर विस्तार (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Vertical Extension of building no. V-44 for Advanced Video Imaging Lab for Avionics Entity at VRC, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/05/2026-27 Dt. 22.04.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹137.53 लाख/Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 23.04.2026 को 10.00 बजे/ hrs. से/ to दिनांक 07.05.2026, 23.00 बजे/ hrs.

2. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एनजीएलवी एवियोनिकी एवं समाकलन सुविधा के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल, यांत्रिक तथा विद्युत कार्य) / Construction of building for NGLV Avionics and Integration Facility at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil, Mechanical & Electrical works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/03/2026-27 Dt. 22.04.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹909.89 लाख/Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 24.04.2026 को 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 14.05.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.in/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

Sd/- प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Head, CMG, VSSC

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India,
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in,
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGCO35067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (216)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S/NIB-11/2026/1031 Dated :- 22/04/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items are invited from eligible bidders:-

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Surgical & Sutures Items	F.02 (216)/RMSCL/Proc./ S&S/NIB-11/2026/1030 Dated :- 22/04/2026	MSC2627GLRC00006	11.34 Cr.	06.05.2026 Up to 6.00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL
Raj.Samwad/C/26/1495

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION & RESEARCH BHOPAL
Institute Works Department, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal - 462 066

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, Institute Works Department, IISER Bhopal on behalf of the Board of Governors invites online percentage rate tenders from CPWD enlisted contractors of appropriate class and other eligible firms / contractors of repute in two envelopes system for the following work:

Sl. No.	NIT No. & date	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Period
1	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2026/59 dated 23/04/2026	Planning, Designing & obtaining all local body approvals and Construction of Teaching and Research Lab (G+4) in Precast RCC Structure system, consisting of all Civil, E&M works and Services as per conceptual plan and development of BIM models, on EPC mode (Engineering,Procurement and Construction) at IISER Bhopal.	Rs.85.09 Crore	Rs. 95,09,903/-	21 Months

The bids forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website **www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**. The press notice is also available in Institute website **www.iiserb.ac.in** and website **www.eprocure.gov.in.**

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests and Wildlife, GNCT of Delhi, A-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi

F. No. 4(08)/CF/HQ/Store/Tree Transplantation/2025-26 **/915** Dated: **23/04/26**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Empanelment of agencies with Dept. of Forest and Wildlife GNCT of Delhi for Tree Transplantation in Delhi

The Department of Forests & Wildlife, GNCTD hereby invites online Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible and qualified agencies for the purpose of empanelment to undertake tree transplantation work. The empanelled agencies will be engaged in carrying out transplantation activities for various Project Proponents and entities in the NCT of Delhi. Interested agencies may refer to the Eligibility Criteria and Scope of Work available on the website **https://forest.delhi.gov.in/**

Eligible agencies may submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) through email at **dcfpm.gnctd@delhi.gov.in.**

The application process will commence from **27th April 2026 at 10:00 AM**, and the last date for submission is **25th May 2026 (Monday) up to 3:00 PM.** Offline expressions of interest shall not be accepted.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0032/26-27
Deputy Conservator of Forests (P&M)

Is social media addiction leading to eating disorder among teens?

For adolescents, who are already navigating intense physical and emotional changes, constant exposure to social media can be damaging

Shelley Singh

Parents often blame junk food, sugary snacks, or poor eating habits when children develop unhealthy relationships with food. But new research suggests another powerful influence is hiding in plain sight: Social media.

A study by Turkish researchers Gamze Yurtdas Depboylu, Gulsah Kaner, and Semiha Ozcakal found that heavy social media use among teenagers is strongly linked to unhealthy eating attitudes, poor body image, and orthorexia nervosa, an unhealthy obsession with eating "perfectly" or "clean". The study surveyed more than 1,200 high school students and found that the more addicted teens were to social media, the more likely they were to struggle with body dissatisfaction and disordered eating patterns.

Girls were especially affected. They reported higher levels of social media addiction than boys and were also more dissatisfied with their bodies. Researchers say constant exposure to idealised images of beauty, fitness, and thinness encourages comparison. That comparison can slowly turn into shame, restriction, and obsessive food rules.

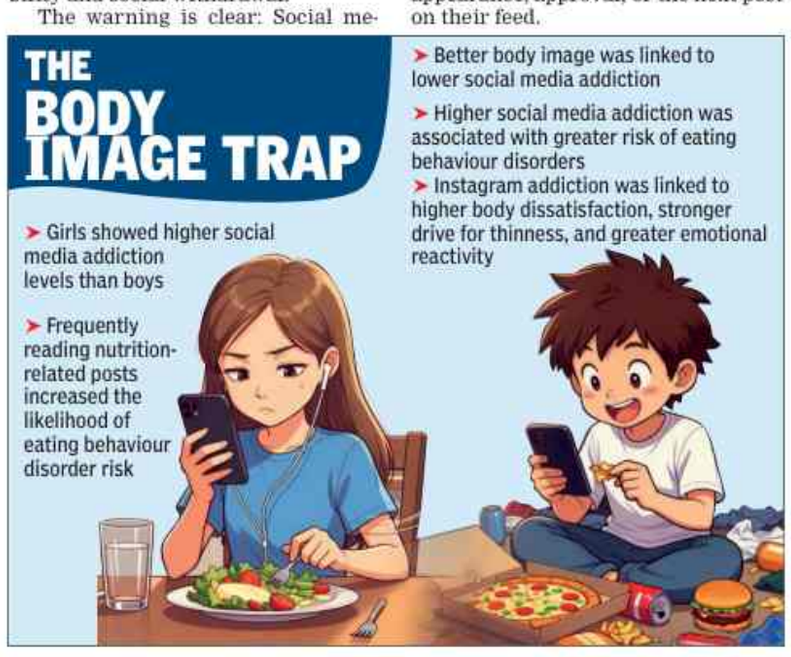
One of the study's most striking findings involved nutrition content. Teenagers who regularly followed food and diet posts from influencers, celebrities, or online "wellness experts" were six times more likely to show signs of eating problems. Many were also more likely to develop orthorexic tendencies, cutting out foods they believed were unhealthy in pursuit of an unrealistic ideal.

A second study from Italy adds to the concern. Researchers Silvia Cimino, Carlos A Almenara, and Luca Cerniglia examined 232 girls aged 9 to 10 and found that those showing signs of Instagram addiction were more likely to feel unhappy with their bodies and more driven to become thinner. They also scored higher on emotional instability and social withdrawal.

The warning is clear: Social media is shaping self-image far earlier than many adults realise. Even before adolescence, children may be absorbing harmful messages about beauty, weight, and worth.

Experts say the answer is not simply banning screens, especially when digital platforms are now part of everyday life. Instead, children need guidance. Parents and schools must teach young people how to question what they see online, recognise unrealistic images, and reject extreme diet advice dressed up as health.

In a world ruled by filters, likes, and curated perfection, protecting children means helping them build confidence that does not depend on appearance, approval, or the next post on their feed.



Oppn submits fresh notice seeking poll chief Gyanesh Kumar's removal

Ambika.Pandit
@timesofindia.com

The motion has been sought "on the ground of proven misbehaviour" — one of the instances being the "Straight Talk" social media post by EC after a meeting with a TMC delegation on April 8

New Delhi: Opposition MPs in Rajya Sabha on Friday submitted to RS secretary general a fresh notice seeking to move a motion to remove Gyanesh Kumar as chief election commissioner on the ground of "proven misbehaviour".

Earlier this month, notices submitted by opposition MPs in both LS and RS were rejected by the speaker and the chairman, respectively. The opposition in its fresh notice has levelled nine new charges against Kumar.

Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said on X that "73 opposition MPs in RS have submitted to its secretary general a fresh notice of motion for presenting an 'Address to the President' praying for the removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar".

The motion, according to Ramesh, has been sought "on the ground of proven misbehaviour" — one of the instances being the "Straight Talk" social media post by EC after a meeting with a TMC delegation on April 8. The meeting had ended on an acrimonious note, with TMC leaders saying the CEC asked them to "get lost" and EC accusing them of shouting.

"There are now nine specific charges against the CEC that have been documented in great detail and that simply cannot be denied or whitewashed away. His continuation is an assault on the Constitution. It is absolute disgrace that the man continues to be in office to do the bidding of PM and HM," Ramesh said. The motion has been signed by MPs from Congress, TMC, DMK, SP, RJD, CPI, CPM, NCP(SP), Shiv Sena (UBT), JMM, IUML, NC and AAP.

As part of the fresh charges, the opposition has accused Kumar of "continued partisan asymmetry in enforcement of model code of conduct", wherein it is alleged that EC failed to act on complaints against PM Narendra Modi's address to the nation on April 18 on the defeated Constitution amendment bill-related to women's reservation amid assmebly polls. CEC "has issued no show-cause notice, no advisory, and no public response" to any of the complaints made regarding this, it said.

The other charges include "administrative lapses evidencing institutional proximity to the governing party" and "conduct unbecoming of a constitutional functionary", where they cite the summary termination of the meeting with TMC.

The list of charges also includes mass disenfranchisement in West Bengal involving deletion of approximately 91 lakh voters and judicial exclusion of approximately 34 lakh voters from the franchise.

Other charges include allegations of "wilful non-action upon specific and documented complaints of official partisanship and "nationwide replication of defective SIR framework".

Tiger cub dies of starvation in MP reserve

Bhopal: The tiger death toll in Madhya Pradesh has risen to 25 this year, with a cub found dead inside Kanha Tiger Reserve in Mandla and another suspicious death reported from neighbouring Balaghat.

The latest case was reported on Friday near Bada Amahi Nala in the Sarhi–Nakan beat area of Kanha, where a male tiger cub was found dead in the Sarhi forest range during routine monitoring. Its sibling was found dead on Tuesday.

Forest officials went to the spot and initiated action as per protocols laid down by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. During a search, the cub's mother and siblings were also sighted nearby, indicating the family group remained active in the range.

A team of veterinarians from Jabalpur, Motinala and Bichhiya conducted the post-mortem. Preliminary findings revealed that all internal organs were intact, ruling out injury or poaching. But the cub's stomach was found empty, suggesting it had not eaten for a considerable period. TNN

Aviation ministry pushes for hub-and-spoke model

▶Continued from page 1

For instance, a passenger flying Lucknow-Delhi-London can do a check-in of baggage at Lucknow itself if both flights (Lucknow to Delhi, and Delhi to London) are of the same airline or of code-share partner carriers. This eliminates the need to collect and recheck bags at the hub. Customs and immigration processes will also be streamlined at the hub airport, making transfers more efficient than before.

While India already has modern airport infrastructure that requires tweaks, it hopes to have strong airlines, apart from IndiGo, once the Air India group gets its act together and others like Akasa grow with time.

"For each hub, we are identifying spoke partners. The idea is to ensure a passenger — flying from Raipur to Oman via Rajkot, for instance — is able to clear customs and immigration at Raipur itself and then take the connecting flight to Oman from Rajkot. The return journey will be equally smooth," said a senior official.

PTI
Airport processes will be streamlined to make transfers more efficient

The aviation ministry is coordinating with home, finance and external affairs ministries, among others, as many aspects required for a true hub-and-spoke model are within their remit.

While Air India group, IndiGo and Akasa count Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru as key bases, Rajkot is likely to get its required airline connectivity for both domestic and international legs from IndiGo, said people implementing the plan. "Rajkot is the easternmost reasonably big airport of India, with key Gulf destinations less than two hours away.

In the past few decades, the absence of strong desi airlines and airports meant the real hubs for Indian globetrotters were outside the country. With India creating big airports since the start of the millennium and its airlines having a large number of wide-body aircraft on order, govt feels it is time to shift this mega transfer business to the country.

Govt is tackling what is the biggest pain point for international to domestic transfer passengers. They need to collect their baggage on the port of arrival in India; clear customs and then check-in baggage again for the domestic flight. "Baggage for both inbound and outbound international passengers will be transferred seamlessly through airside operations at the hub airport, eliminating the need for passenger intervention," the ministry said.

WMO warns of likely El Niño return

▶Continued from page 1

The latest monthly global seasonal climate update from WMO signals a clear shift in the equatorial Pacific where sea-surface temperatures are rising rapidly, pointing to a possible likely return of El Nino conditions next month.

El Nino is characterised by warming of ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern Equatorial Pacific."For the May-June-July season, land surface temperatures are expected to be above-normal nearly everywhere," said WMO, noting that the seasonal forecasts are vital to guide preparedness actions, especially in climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, water resource management, energy and health.

TNN

El Niño is linked to reduced rainfall or drought over parts of the Indian subcontinent

"After a period of neutral conditions at the start of the year, climate models are now strongly aligned, and there is high confidence in the onset of El Nino, followed by further intensification in the months that follow," said Wilfran Moufouma Okia, chief of climate prediction at WMO.

Each El Niño event is unique in terms of its evolution, spatial pattern and impacts. It is invariably linked to decreased rainfall or drought over Australia, Indonesia, and parts of Indian subcontinent, but is associated with increased rainfall in parts of southern South America, the southern United States, the Horn of Africa and central Asia.

India securing LPG cargo through spot purchases

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With energy supplies still tight amid the West Asia conflict, India is securing LPG cargo through spot purchases to meet demand for cooking gas cylinders among households as well as commercial establishments.

People aware of the development said state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) have tied up with the US to bridge the supply shortfall. Besides long-term contracts with the country, OMCs have also added spot cargoes in the last few weeks, which are likely to reach India in June and July.

When asked, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum and natural gas ministry, said India was importing nearly 60% of its LPG requirement before the war broke out in West Asia. "With the increase in domestic production, our import dependency has decreased. Govt's priority is to ensure domestic supplies, and for that, we will source cargo from wherever it is possible," Sharma said.

According to the ministry, against a daily LPG requirement of approximately 80,000 tonnes, India has raised domestic output by nearly 20% to about 46,000 tonnes. For the remaining requirement, it has diversified imports from 10 countries earlier to 15 now. While 90% of LPG supplies earlier came from Gulf nations — the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman — more purchases are now being made from the US, Norway, Canada, Algeria and Russia.

Earlier this month, govt said that at least eight lakh tonnes of assured import cargo had already been secured and are en route. Of the 10 vessels that have reached India after crossing the Strait of Hormuz, since the war began and supply lines were choked, nine carried cooking gas.

As per PPAC data, LPG consumption in March declined by over 11% — from 2.7 million tonnes in Feb to 2.4 million tonnes — due to supply shortages. Domestic production, however, increased by nearly 27% — from 1.1 million tonnes in Feb to 1.4 million tonnes in March — to plug the gap.

To prioritise household supplies, govt has regulated the sale to commercial and industrial sectors.

2 more toddlers die of unknown sickness in Raj

Intishab.Ali@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: Two toddler cousins from Kunda village in Khajuria gram panchayat in Rajasthan's Salumber district died within 24 hours of each other, triggering alarm in the state health department and fear among villagers over a possible unidentified illness affecting children in the area.

Six-year-old Asha, daughter of Teja Meena, died on Thursday after suffering from vomiting and stomach pain. Her five-year-old cousin Rusha, daughter of Samiya Meena, died on Friday morning with similar symptoms. The two girls were daughters of two brothers and belonged to the same extended family.

Their deaths intensified concern because eight children already died of unknown sickness earlier this month in Ghata village and nearby areas of Lasadiya block, around 30 km from Kunda. Health officials have so far failed to determine the cause behind those deaths as well as the latest two fatalities.

Following the deaths in Kunda, the health department formed survey teams and sent them to the village to examine children and assess the situation on Friday.

Health officials said the two girls were not taken to any govt hospital or nearby primary health centre for treatment and died at home. According to the health department, the lack of timely medical consultation may have limited chances of diagnosis and intervention.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001. Karnataka State. INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25589113 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No: PCB/144/17 CAT/HPI/EPH/2025/2026/293 Date:24/04/2026

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s ACC Limited, has proposed to increase the capacity of existing cement grinding unit from 2.0 Million TPA to 8.0 Million TPA to produce OPC/PPC/PSC/PCC by installing two new lines of capacity 3.0 Million TPA each within existing plant area at Sy No.124/5, 124/6, 124/7, 124/8, 124/12, 124/14, 126, 144/1, 144/2, 144/3, 144/4, 145/1, 145/2, 146/1, 146/2, 146/3, 146/4, 146/5, 146/6, 146/7, 146/8, 146/9, 146/10, 146/11, 146/12, 146/13, 146/14, 146/15, 147/1, 147/2, 147/3, 147/4, 147/5, 147/6, 148, 149, 151, 152/1, 152/2, 152/3, 152/4, 152/5, 152/6, 152/7, 159,160, 161, 162/1, 162/2, 162/3, 162/4, 164/1, 164/2, 164/3, 165 & 167/4, Thondebhavi Village, Gowribidanuru Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.
As Per Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 09.05.2022, the Project Proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GOI and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing process. As per the Terms of Reference vide File No: MoEF& CC, GoI vide file No.J-11011/132/2007-IA-II (IND-I) dated:04.01.2025 and request letter of the project proponent received at Board office on 10.03.2025, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. **Name of the Company & Address:** ACC Limited, Thondebhavi Village, Thondebhavi Post, GowribidanuruTaluk, Chikkaballapura District-561213.

2. **Location of the proposed Project :** Sy No.124/5, 124/6, 124/7, 124/8, 124/12, 124/14, 126, 144/1, 144/2, 144/3, 144/4, 145/1, 145/2, 146/1, 146/2, 146/3, 146/4, 146/5, 146/6, 146/7, 146/8, 146/9, 146/10, 146/11, 146/12, 146/13, 146/14, 146/15, 147/1, 147/2, 147/3, 147/4, 147/5, 147/6, 148, 149, 151, 152/1, 152/2, 152/3, 152/4, 152/5, 152/6, 152/7, 159,160, 161, 162/1, 162/2, 162/3, 162/4, 164/1, 164/2, 164/3, 165 & 167/4, Thondebhavi Village, GowribidanuruTaluk, Chikkaballapura District.

3. **Project proposed :** Proposed to increase the capacity of existing cement grinding unit from 2.0 Million TPA to 8.0 Million TPA to produce OPC/PPC/PSC/PCC by installing two new lines of capacity 3.0 Million TPA each within existing plant area.

4. **Date, time and venue of Environmental public hearing: Date: 27.05.2026 (Wednesday) Time: 11:00 A.M. Place: Project site, ACC Limited,** Thondebhavi Village, Thondebhavi Post, GowribidanuruTaluk, Chikkaballapura District.

5. **Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapura District, Chikkaballapura. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chikkaballapura District, Chikkaballapura. (c) District Industries Centre, Chikkaballapura District, Chikkaballapura. (d) Office of the Regional Officer, Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, House No.708/62, 4th Division, H.S.Garden, Near Sir M.V.Stadium, Chikkaballapura-562101. (e) Thondebhavi Village Panchayat, Gowribidanuru Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. (f) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change South Zone Office, E-3/240, KendriyaSadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. (g) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, ParisaraBhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board / Deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapura District. Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

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A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

Calcutta HC changes EC's 48-hr ban order on bike movement to 12 hours

But Curbs On Two-Wheeler Rallies Remain

Subrata Chattoraj | TNN

HC made it clear family members would be allowed to ride pillion only for voting, medical emergencies or family functions from 6am to 6pm

Kolkata: The Calcutta high court on Friday scrapped the Election Commission's 48-hour bike ban order for the second phase of assembly elections on April 29 and said pillion riding would not be allowed on two-wheelers for 12 hours on poll day, unless it was for taking or bringing back children from school, medical emergencies or family functions. The court, however, did not interfere with the 48-hour ban on motorcycle rallies.

In his 11-page order, Justice Krishna Rao said, "In the name of free and fair polls, authorities cannot pass a blanket restriction on motorcycle riding." HC made it clear only family members would be allowed to ride pillion only for voting, medical emergencies or family functions from 6am to 6pm on poll day.

The order also made it clear that "exemption is given to service providers such as Ola/Uber/Zomato/Swiggy and similar other home delivery agencies and also to office-going riders with proper identification".

Justice Rao said, "This court finds that with regard to motorbike rallies there is some justification to avoid any violence before 48 hours of the election or on the date of the election, but riding the motorcycle by any person 48 hours before is not justifiable."

A notification on April 20 banned bike rallies for 48 hours and barred two-wheelers from 6pm to 6am, except in emergencies. The order also banned pillion riding for 48 hours, again except for emergencies. After criticism, this was modified to exempt "service providers like Ola/Uber/Zomato/Swiggy and similar home delivery agencies". An exception was also given to "office-going riders carrying a proper identity card".

HC said, "There is no dispute that the EC has superintendence powers under the said provision for the purpose of election. However, it will have to conform to the existing laws and rules in exercising its power and performing its manifold duties for the conduct of free and fair elections."

It did not buy EC's argument that it had wide powers to conduct "free and fair polls", pointing out "several paramilitary forces as well as the local police have been deputed so that no untoward incident happens during the election".

SC refuses to entertain pleas on speedy disposal of appeals by tribunals

Times News Network

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain pleas for expeditious or out-of-turn hearings by tribunals on appeals challenging the deletion of names from Bengal poll rolls and asked the petitioners to approach the Calcutta HC either on the administrative side by making representations to its chief justice or file petitions on the judicial side.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said the controversy relating to pending appeals was fully addressed by the court in its April 13 order, and those who wanted expeditious or out-of-turn hearings on their appeals by the tribunals must approach the tribunals.

If they wanted judicial intervention in this regard, they must approach the Calcutta HC CJ on the administrative side with a representation or file a petition in the HC on the judicial side, the bench said.

On April 13, SC had invoked its extraordinary powers under Article 142 and said, "Wherever the appellate tribunals are able to decide the appeals by April 21 (for constituencies going to polls on April 23) or April 27 (for those where voting is scheduled for April 29), such appellate orders shall be given effect to by issuing a supplementary revised electoral roll, and all necessary consequences with respect to the right to vote shall follow."

TMC MP and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee told SC there were 27 lakh appeals pending and the tribunals had so far decided 139 of them. "We expected much more," he said.

The bench said, "You approach the Calcutta HC for whatever grievances you have. Most of the issues have been comprehensively addressed by the April 13 order. But for the additional issues which may arise, Calcutta HC or the tribunals can be approached."

On a boat ride, Modi says Ganga flows 'through the soul of Bengal'

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

PTI

PM Narendra Modi tries his hand at photography during a boat ride on the Hooghly river in Kolkata on Friday

Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a short break from his hectic Bengal poll campaign schedule on Friday to enjoy an early morning boat ride on the Ganga, which, he said, "flows right through the soul of Bengal".

Modi, who had spent the night at Raj Bhavan, reached Man O War Jetty for a walk around 7am. He spent some time along the banks chatting with morning walkers and then hired a boat for a ride on the Hooghly.

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

Later, he posted on X, "The sacred waters of the Ganga carry forward the eternal consciousness of the entire civilisation... I made a little effort to capture photos of this sacred Ganga. I also saw the Vidyasagar Setu and Howrah Bridge from very close by. Yesterday evening, during the long roadshow from Howrah to Kolkata, I was on Howrah Bridge. And this morning, I saw this bridge from the Hooghly river," he said.

Boatman Prabir Biswas, 44, said it was a little past 7am when some people arrived and hired seven boats.

"They didn't reveal the purpose. It was only when we saw PM Modi descending the ghat steps that we realised today was going to be special," he said.

The PM was allotted a boat rowed by Gouranga Biswas, 72. "I spend most nights on my boat here. The PM came and asked my name in Bengali. I am not good at Hindi. I replied in Bengali," said Gouranga. The PM paid him Rs 1,000 for the 35-minute ride, Rs 300 more than what they usually charge for an hour.

The senior boatman said Modi did not speak much once they were mid-river.

"It was only after we returned that he called me over and gave me a tight hug," said Gouranga. "Ever since the interaction, I am being mobbed by strangers asking me about my feelings. It still feels unreal."

The other boatmen said they were briefed by the PM's security personnel. "They asked us to follow a formation similar to one used for a VIP cavalcade on the road. A boat with three security personnel stayed in the front, and another with security personnel stayed at the rear. The three other boats surrounded the PM's boat, keeping some distance. Divers and security personnel also stood at the ghat, keeping a sharp eye.

A few other boatmen stayed on the ghat to ensure PM's boat was safely anchored for him to alight. Mohammed Iftikhar Ahmed, 38, was one of them. "Yahan pe sab mil jul ke rehna, khush rehna (All of you live here together cordially and stay happy)," the PM told him.

EC: With no repolling recommendations, Bengal & Tamil Nadu break 'past pattern'

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Not a single repoll has been recommended across the 44,376 polling stations in West Bengal and the 75,064 polling stations in Tamil Nadu, EC sources told **TOI** on Friday.

This is a break from the pattern of multiple repolls recommended in the past elections, particularly in Bengal, on account of political violence and alleged electoral malpractices.

Both Bengal and TN had witnessed the highest ever polling percentages on Thursday. Bengal clocked nearly 92.9% turnout in its first phase after deletion of around 83 lakh electors from the state's poll rolls due to SIR.

A three-point verification was put in place at all the polling stations of Bengal on Thursday, so as to keep a tight check on electoral malpractices associated with past elections in the state, known in common parlance as 'chaapa', 'source jamming' and 'booth jamming'.

The first point of verification was the immediate area surrounding the polling station. Section 163 of BNSS (which corresponds with Section 144 of the erstwhile IPC) was imposed on Thursday within a 200-metre area of the polling stations.

Identity papers of each person entering this area were checked and only genuine electors, election officials etc allowed entry.

The second round of verification was done at the point of entry to the polling station. Booth-level officers and volunteers of NSS and NCC were deployed to check each person before letting him queue up for voting.

This included verifying identity of 'pardanasheen' women (women wearing face veils as a religious custom) by female staff. The latter, as instructed by EC, checked the identity card, voter card or voter slip of each person before allowing them to proceed to the voters' queue.

The third verification was the normal identity check performed by the polling officer inside the polling booth, before the elector gets his finger inked and casts his vote.

EC suspends police officer for 'partisanship'

Kolkata: The EC suspended Sandeep Sarkar, officer incharge of Hingalganj police station, over allegations of partisanship and failure to ensure a level playing field during the current assembly elections. It also directed that disciplinary proceedings be initiated against him, reports **Sanjib Chakraborty**.

The decision comes amid heightened political tension in North 24 Parganas. The development follows recent allegations that the BJP distributed cash to voters ahead of polling.

Police detained two BJP functionaries — Tarun Mondal and former Assam MLA Kishore Nath — who were allegedly caught distributing money among residents while campaigning for BJP candidate Rekha Patra. BJP, though, dismissed the allegations as baseless, claiming that police acted under the influence of TMC members.

EC cited reports received from the Bengal CEO, pointing to a "nexus with local elements" and dereliction of duty.

Our Ganga clean, can he do the same in Yamuna, asks Didi

Suman Chakraborti | TNN

PTI

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee greets supporters during a roadshow in Kolkata on Friday

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Friday dismissed PM Narendra Modi's early-morning boat ride on the Ganga as a photo-op for political gains and dared him to go into the "polluted" Yamuna in Delhi.

"Our Ganga is clean. That is why the PM could enjoy the boat ride. Can he do the same in (Delhi's) Yamuna?" Banerjee said.

"This is election politics, photoshopping. You took a boat ride on the Ganga; that's fine, you are welcome. I go to Chandannagar; I go to Ganga Sagar too. But I challenge you — will you go to the Yamuna in Delhi and take a dip? The Yamuna in Delhi is completely polluted. You cannot manage the Yamuna in Delhi, yet you come to our Ganga and take photos," the CM said at a rally in Howrah.

Addressing a rally in the port area later, she said, "He (the PM) should do a comparison between Bengal's Ganga and Delhi's Yamuna. Our Ganga is clean; that is why he could indulge in a boat ride. The event was nothing but a photo-op for political gain."

The CM called the PM's jhalmuri stopover in Jhargram a "totally staged" act. "Is it believable that he carries a Rs 10 note with him? If you really love Bengal, will you try our fish-and-rice once? I will cook it for you," she said.

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, addressing another public meeting, called PM Modi "Bengal's biggest brand ambassador". "Why do they come only during the polls? They should come to Bengal throughout the year. Come and enjoy the delicacies here. Because the PM travelled and made reels, people now know how beautiful Bengal is and the development Mamata govt has done here. Had he not campaigned like this, would people have seen how the rivers of Bengal are so clean and beautiful, or how the roads of Jhargram are so nice?" he said.

AAP MPs' switch may not fall foul of 10th Schedule

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Renowned legal experts highlighted the Tenth Schedule's inability to stop political defections when they acquire the scale of "merger" and said joining of BJP by seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs led by Raghav Chadha would not fall foul of the anti-defection law, which approves two-thirds of a legislature party to break away and merge with another party.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, Neeraj Kishan Kaul and Maninder Singh said Section 4(2) of the Tenth Schedule provided that the penalty of disqualification may not arise if two-thirds of the strength of a legislature party in a House approves breaking away from the party on whose ticket they got elected and merged with another party.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, who as lead advocate in matters where he had opposed and supported such political decisions in SC, said, "The Tenth Schedule says that (i) one political party must merge with another and (ii) two-thirds members of the legislature party must agree to the said merger. SC held that the legislature party and political party cannot be conflated as they are separate entities. Accordingly, mere merger of legislature parties is not sufficient." AAP had 10 MPs in RS and seven would constitute two-third of its legislature party in the House.

However, he said that what is more material is that arbiter of such disputes happens to be the presiding officer/Speaker of a House who owes his position to the ruling dispensation, which makes it difficult to get such MPs/MLAs disqualified under provisions of anti-defection law.

"I have said so many times over last decade that Tenth Schedule is a sterile part of Constitution, which should be repealed and substituted by two lines: Any MP/MLA who defects from the party from which he got elected to House shall cease to be a member of House and must seek re-election," Singhvi said.

Kaul said, "If two-thirds of members of a legislature party approve that a merger has happened of the party, then the merger is deemed to have happened and, therefore, it is a valid defence by them to avoid disqualification in the House." He said in Shiv Sena case, SC had accepted that Section 4(2) of Tenth Schedule was a valid defence in disqualification proceedings.

Rohatgi and Singh said a legislature party was relatable to the House concerned. "If two-thirds of total members of a party in RS decide to merge with another party, it shall be considered a valid merger and will not invite disqualification under the anti-defection law." In April 2003, an amendment to the Tenth Schedule had barred the earlier prevalent defections arising from splits in the party.

WHY SOME DEFECTIONS SURVIVE ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

The 1985 law was enacted to prevent individual party-hopping, but it allows MPs to avoid disqualification if a merger is backed by at least two-thirds of their legislature party. Some examples of the past are:

1986: Congress (S) merged with Congress (I) in the Rajya Sabha, one of the earliest cases under the anti-defection framework

1988: Janata (G) and Lok Dal (A) came together to form the Janata Party in the Rajya Sabha

1989: The Janata Party–Lok Dal merger, which created Janata Dal, was one of the biggest such regroupings in the Upper House

2003: The Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) group merged with the Congress in the Rajya Sabha

2010: JMM's Kanwar Deep Singh merged with the Trinamool Congress, underscoring that the merger clause could apply even in one-member situations

IN HAPPIER TIMES

2014: Ram Kripal Yadav, then associated with the RJD in the Rajya Sabha, merged with the BJP

The 1985 law and 2003 amendment: The anti-defection law, brought in through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment in 1985, was designed to curb political defections after elections. In essence, an MP can be disqualified for voluntarily giving up party membership or for defying the party whip in the House. An independent MP, too, can lose the seat if he or she joins a party after being elected.

The big exception is merger: if two-thirds or more of a party's MPs in a legislature agree to merge with another party, they are not disqualified. The law earlier had a separate protection for a split backed by one-third of members, but that loophole was removed in 2003. Since then, the law has recognised only the two-thirds merger exception.

CJI: People realised their strength lies in democracy

▸ Continued from page 1

Justice Bagchi said, "Another good thing is that there was no violence during the polling, except sporadic incidents." CJI Kant said, "As a citizen of India, I was very happy to see the high percentage of voting. People need to participate in voting."

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, too, said the forces did a commendable job in curbing violence that resulted in high voter turnout. Justice Bagchi cited a Bengali adage to describe earlier violence during the state elections and said, "When kings fight, the poor men suffer and die (Rajaye rajaye juddha haye, ulukhagara prana jaye)".

CJI Kant said, "People must realise the power of their vote in a democracy. More than 92% went to vote. When a large number of people go to vote, there is no violence. That shows people realised that their strength lies in democratic system."

Mehta said, "92% voter turnout is historic. Except for sporadic violence, the forces have done a commendable job. We must be thankful to them. There had been a history of both pre- and post-poll violence in the state." The CJI said, "It shows the fairness of democratic process. In Tamil Nadu also there is high voter turnout."

Justice Bagchi said, "Voting in a democratic process is something which needs to be protected and honoured. Otherwise, the very essence of democracy will be lost."

Turning to senior advocate D S Naidu representing EC, Justice Bagchi said, "For change, Naidu's client is applauded by everyone." This was unpalatable to Banerjee, who said for the past three days EC had been lambasted by HC.

Modi: Dying lamp flickers the most

▸ Continued from page 1

Referring to reports of TMC workers trying to intimidate voters, Modi said "a dying lamp flickers the most", even as Bengal BJP politicians pointed out that the results from eight districts were unlikely to favour the party in office.

Campaigning for RG Kar rape-murder victim's mother in North 24 Parganas earlier in the day, the PM launched a sharp attack on TMC over the incident.

Calling Trinamool an anti-women party, Modi said BJP has fielded several women who have suffered "injustice".

"BJP has made the RG Kar victim's mother and a woman from Sandeshkhali its candidates. The mother groomed her daughter to be a doctor but the 'maha jungle raj' snatched her daughter," he said, accusing TMC of abusing both contestants.

Modi said TMC was asking women "not to step out of their homes to avoid rape". "They don't want women to dream. BJP will not allow them to crush our daughters' dreams," he said, promising to reopen cases of injustice against women if BJP is voted to office.

The PM reiterated that the middle class was at the top of the mind for BJP. "Middle class works hard, pays taxes and tries to save money. We have to make their life easy. In Bengal, it is essential that the middle class gets the benefits of a double-engine govt," he said. "In the cash-for-jobs scams, they have sold jobs. No poor person can get a job as long as there is TMC. The troubles of migrating workers will end the moment TMC is out of office."

AAP now works for personal interest, says Raghav

▸ Continued from page 1

The turncoats, however, not just stood their ground; they shifted to a higher moral one, saying that AAP was now a party of the corrupt & the compromised.

"AAP has completely strayed from its principles and moral values. This party now does not work in national interest but for personal benefits. I do not want to be part of their crimes," Raghav said in a pointed denunciation of Kejriwal, whose rise as the all-powerful supremo of his party has been marked by the resignation of a number of his once close associates since it was born out of the India Against Corruption movement.

Raghav praised PM Narendra Modi's strong leadership of the country, emphasising that people have put faith in his govt three times in a row. He said more AAP functionaries will leave the party as BJP looks to expand its presence in Punjab.

Pathak, an ex-IIT faculty member who was considered a data-cruncher and a key AAP groundsman during its 2022 sweep of Punjab, refrained from targeting Kejriwal, blamed "circumstances" and said he was joining BJP to continue serving the country.

Mittal, who built upon family-owned sweet shop Lovely Sweets and car dealership Lovely Auto to launch Lovely Professional University, one of the biggest private universities, and whose premises were raided by Enforcement Directorate a few days ago, did not speak.

Incidentally, Kejriwal had been living in Mittal's official residence so far and moved to the house allotted to him as AAP convener Friday. The joining takes BJP's strength in RS to 113 and the overall NDA's tally to 142, 17 more than the majority mark of 123 in its current strength of 244. While recognised politicians from different parties have defected to BJP over the years, the wholesale crossover of AAP MPs shed a light on the party's acute vulnerability and fragility as it was often accused, more so by opposition parties but also by insiders, of maintaining ideological ambiguity in its pursuit of power.

Harbhajan hardly attended parliamentary proceedings and kept away from political commentary. Of those in Rajya Sabha who remain with AAP, N D Gupta is a well-known CA, though with no involvement in AAP's launch, and Balbir Singh Seechewal, a social activist, who has assiduously maintained an above-the-fray posture and has a good equation with Modi.

Didi: Before thinking of Bengal, focus on Manipur

▸ Continued from page 1

Banerjee then addressed Union home minister Amit Shah, saying, "Out of desperation, Amitbabu had to hold a meeting with the administration today. You are trying to scare everyone, but after May 4 you won't find anyone."

She accused BJP of planning further "atrocities" to suppress turnout in Phase-II. "Seeing 93%, they are saying they must be stricter now. But people have voted in such large numbers to protect their rights — you will feel the consequences."

Banerjee also hit back at BJP's claims about law and order. "Before thinking about governing Bengal, focus on Manipur — it is burning. And does it sound respectable for Union home minister to say he will hang people upside down and thrash them?"

She invoked Bihar as a cautionary tale. "They used Nitish Kumar for political gain and then removed him. That is the character of BJP." "No matter how much you attack, this time there will be democratic revenge. Not just change, I want democratic revenge," she said.

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DO IT, IS TO DO IT — AMELIA EARHART

NIKKI GLASER REVEALS LEONARDO DICAPRIO SENT HER PASTA AS A THANK-YOU GESTURE FOR ROASTING HIM AT GOLDEN GLOBES

HARUKI MURAKAMI'S 'THE TALE OF KAHO', OUT ON JULY 3, WILL BE HIS FIRST FULL-LENGTH NOVEL WITH FEMALE PROTAGONIST

Got successfully treated for cancer, now healthy: Bibi

Jerusalem: Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** said on Friday that he had undergone treatment for prostate cancer. This was his first public acknowledgment of the diagnosis.

Netanyahu said he had prostate surgery a year-and-a-half ago. Then, two-and-a-half months ago, doctors discovered and treated a small tumour at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital with radiation therapy. "I requested to delay its publication by two months so that it would not be released at the height of the war" against Iran, the 76-year-old said, to prevent "more false propaganda against Israel". He said he was healthy and called the tumour a "minor medical issue".

Netanyahu's health was the subject of speculation in the early weeks of the war as AI-generated images were circulated suggesting he had died, including on Iranian state media.

Aharon Popovtser, director of Hadassah Hospital's oncology unit, said Netanyahu was diagnosed at an early stage, adding that prostate cancer is common among men his age. AP

Israel, Lebanon extend ceasefire by 3 weeks

Beirut: Israel and Lebanon extended their shaky ceasefire by three weeks on Friday after the US President Donald Trump met Israeli and Lebanese envoys in Washington, and described himself as confident that a peace deal in that conflict would be an "easy one". Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday hailed "a process to achieve a historic peace between Israel and Lebanon".

However, the situation in Lebanon remained tense as the Israeli military said its forces killed six Hezbollah fighters in a southern Lebanese town. Israel's military said it downed a drone over Lebanon following the launch of a small surface-to-air missile by Hezbollah. The militant group said it shot down an Israeli drone with a missile over the outskirts of the city of Tyre. AGENCIES

'Nukes must never be allowed': Trump rules out N-strike on Iran

US Extends Shipping Waiver To Aid Oil Supply

AFP

Symbolic belongings laid on the ground in Tehran on Friday in tribute to the schoolgirls killed in an airstrike in Iran's Minab last month

Washington: President Donald Trump on Thursday ruled out striking Iran with a nuclear weapon, after his previous threats to completely destroy Iranian civilisation.

"No, I wouldn't use it," he told reporters at the White House. "Why would I use a nuclear weapon when we've, in a very conventional way, decimated them without it?" He added, "A nuclear weapon should never be allowed to be used by anybody."

On April 7, the US president had issued a genocidal threat to Iran that a "whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back", but, within hours, agreed to a ceasefire.

On Friday, the White House said Trump issued a 90-day extension to the Jones Act waiver, making it easier for non-American vessels to transport oil and natural gas.

Trump first announced a 60-day waiver in March in a move intended to stabilise energy prices and ease oil and gas shipments to US following effective closure of Strait of Hormuz. "New data compiled since the initial waiver was issued revealed that significantly more supply was able to reach US ports faster," the White House said on social media.

The price of Brent crude oil retreated on the news, vacillating between $103 a barrel and more than $107 — still 50% higher than where it was on Feb 28, when the war began.

The squeeze on shipments through the strait has rippled through global maritime trade flows, including through the Panama Canal nearly halfway around the world.

Pakistan has been trying to get US and Iranian officials back to the table after Trump this week announced an indefinite extension of the ceasefire with Iran, honouring Islamabad's request for more time for diplomatic outreach.

That hasn't lowered tensions in the strait, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas is shipped during peacetime. Iran has kept its stranglehold on traffic, attacking three ships this week, while US is maintaining a blockade on Iranian ports and Trump has ordered the military to "shoot and kill" small boats that could be placing mines.

"Iran has an important choice, a chance to make a deal, a good deal, a wise deal," US defence secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters on Friday. He said a second US aircraft carrier would join the blockade in a few days.

Washington already has three aircraft carriers in the region: USS George HW Bush in the Indian Ocean; USS Abraham Lincoln in the Arabian Sea; and USS Gerald R Ford in the Red Sea. This is the first time since 2003 that three US carriers have been operating there simultaneously. The force includes 200 aircraft and 15,000 sailors and Marines, US Central Command said.

Since the war began, at least 3,375 people have been killed in Iran, and more than 2,490 people in Lebanon, where new fighting between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah broke out two days after the war started, according to authorities. Additionally, 23 people have died in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states. Fifteen Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and 13 US service members throughout the region have been killed.

The UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon has also sustained casualties. UNIFIL said on Friday an Indonesian peacekeeper died of wounds sustained in an attack on his base on March 29, raising to six — four Indonesians and two French — the number of force members killed since the war erupted. AGENCIES

Nato and Russian pilots size each other up in Baltic skies

AP

'GAME OF CAT AND CAT': A French Rafale fighter jet at Siauliai Air Base in Lithuania. Pilots say their goal is to deter, not provoke

Siauliai Air Base: When Nato's call came, the French fighter pilots scrambled with practised urgency, already suited up to shorten their response times. They dashed in vans to hangars where their prepped and armed Rafale jets awaited, clambered into the cockpits and fired up the engines.

Within minutes of takeoff from Siauliai Air Base in Lithuania, they were over the Baltic Sea, first intercepting a Russian Il-20 reconnaissance aircraft and then tailing supersonic Russian bombers and their fighter escorts that neared the airspace of multiple Nato countries.

In a conflict situation, things could quickly get heated. But for the moment, with Russia and the military alliance at odds over Ukraine but not at war, pilots on both sides just watched and filmed each other, their missiles visible but not used.

One of the points of the posturing is to try to ensure that the frostiness between Nato and the Kremlin doesn't tilt into open hostility.

Commanders and pilots flying Nato air-policing missions on the eastern flank of the 32-nation military alliance say their goal is to deter, not provoke. They believe their presence is reassuring for Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — that border Russia and its ally, Belarus.

"It's a game of cat and mouse, or rather cat and cat," said Lt Col Alexandre, commander of a French air force wing of four Rafales that is sharing the base with another fighter detachment from Romania. "We watch each other, scrutinise each other and try to make sure that it doesn't go any further," he said.

Alliance members take turns policing Baltic skies around the clock. The French inherited the building that serves as their headquarters from a Spanish detachment. They will hand it over to Italian replacements in Aug.

Nato scrambles jets to identify and possibly take action when Russian planes fly in Baltic airspace without switched-on transponders and without filing flight plans. "There are plenty of times in which, on purpose or not, they're not really respecting International Civil Aviation Organization rules," said Col Mihaita Marin, commanding the Romanian detachment of six F-16s. "So obviously we are forced to make sure they are who they say they are and their intention is peaceful."

The arrival of spring, bringing better flying conditions, means French and Romanian flyers have been busy since they deployed in April on four-month rotations. Marin said interceptions "are getting close to daily".

French aircrews had their busiest day so far on April 20. Scrambled under Nato command, French Rafales met and observed a pair of Russian Tu-22M3 bombers carrying supersonic, anti-ship missiles from their bellies.

The strategic bombers' more than four-hour flight from an airbase near St Petersburg, escorted by Su-30 and Su-35 fighters, remained in international airspace but took them past the coasts of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, doubling back when they approached Denmark. Fighter jets from Sweden, Finland, Poland, Denmark and Romania also went airborne to keep watch, according to the French.

Lt Col Alexandre said it wasn't clear why Russian pilots behaved in ways that could endanger other users of Baltic airspace. "We don't know if it's lack of professionalism or just a means for them to test us," he said. "But... we need to go every time." AP

Suspend Spain from Nato: Pentagon email

Options are detailed in a note by Elbridge Colby, the Pentagon's top policy adviser, who expressed frustration at some allies' 'reluctance' to grant the US access, basing and overflight rights for the Iran war, said an official

Washington: An internal Pentagon email outlines options for the US to punish Nato allies it believes failed to support its operations in the war with Iran, including suspending Spain from the alliance and reviewing the US position on Britain's claim to Falkland Islands, a US official said.

The policy options are detailed in a note prepared by Elbridge Colby, the Pentagon's top policy adviser, who expressed frustration at some allies' perceived reluctance or refusal to grant the US access, basing and overflight rights — known as ABO — for the Iran war, said the official.

Colby wrote that ABO was "just the absolute baseline for Nato", according to the official, who added that the options were circulating at high levels in the Pentagon. One option envisions suspending "difficult" countries from important or prestigious positions at Nato, the official said.

President Donald Trump has harshly criticised Nato allies for not sending their navies to help open Strait of Hormuz. He has also declared he is considering withdrawing from the alliance. "Wouldn't you if you were me?" Trump said in an April 1 interview.

But the email does not suggest that the US do so, the official said. It also does not propose closing bases in Europe.

Asked for comment on the email, Pentagon press secretary Kingsley Wilson responded: "As President Trump has said, despite everything that the US has done for our Nato allies, they were not there for us. The war department will ensure that the President has credible options to ensure that our allies are no longer a paper tiger and instead do their part. We have no further comment on any internal deliberations to that effect."

Asked whether it was possible to suspend an ally, a Nato official said "Nato's Founding Treaty does not foresee any provision for suspension of Nato membership".

Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez said the country was a "reliable member" of Nato and fulfilled all its obligations. "As a result, I am absolutely not worried," he said. AGENCIES

Health data of 500,000 in UK listed for sale in China

London: Anonymised medical data of half a million members of UK health database Biobank was temporarily listed for sale on an Alibaba-owned Chinese website, British govt said Thursday.

Data minister Ian Murray said the breach involved the information of all 500,000 Biobank members. "This has been an unacceptable abuse of UK Biobank charity's data," he said, adding that the data was downloaded legitimately by three research institutions in China.

At a news conference on Friday, Beijing's foreign ministry spokesman, Guo Jiakun, said China "has always protected personal information rights and interests in accordance with the law".

Biobank uses data from volunteers to help researchers make discoveries, such as treatment of dementia and cancers. It said "de-identified participant data made available to researchers at three academic institutions was listed for sale". Biobank chief executive Rory Collins added, "Alibaba swiftly removed those listings before any sales were made."

The institutions have had their access suspended.

"We're still working with Biobank to ascertain... what happened," Murray said. AFP

Norway set to curb social media access for under-16s

Norway plans to restrict access to social media for children under 16, joining a growing number of countries responding to concerns about the potential harm kids face online.

The bill came after "overwhelming" demand from the public, govt said on Friday. It plans to bring the legislation to parliament before the end of the year. The limit will apply up until Jan 1 of the year a child turns 16 with technology companies responsible for age verification, govt said. "We want a childhood where children get to be children," PM Jonas Gahr Store said. "Play, friendships, and everyday life must not be taken over by algorithms and screens."

The Nordic nation's move comes on the heels of bans instituted in Australia and Greece, with multiple other nations considering similar action. Australia's restrictions came into force in Dec. Greece will end access to social media for children under 15 from the start of next year.

"Children cannot be left with the responsibility for staying away from platforms they are not allowed to use," Karianne Tung, Norway's minister of digitalisation, said. "That responsibility rests with the companies providing these services."

According to an emailed statement, YouTube Inc said it believes in "protecting youth in the digital world, not from it", and it supports a "comprehensive approach to ensure platforms are incentivised to build safer, age-appropriate experiences that also empowers parents". BLOOMBERG

Google plans to invest $40bn in Anthropic

Google will invest $10 billion in Anthropic PBC, with another $30 billion potentially to follow, strengthening the relationship between two companies that are at once partners and rivals in the race to build artificial intelligence.

Anthropic said Google was committing to $10 billion now in cash at a $350 billion valuation, the same amount it was valued at in a funding round in Feb, not including the recent money raised. The Alphabet Inc-owned company will invest another $30 billion if Anthropic hits performance targets, the startup said on Friday.

Anthropic has ramped up its fundraising amid the breakout success of Claude Code, an AI agent that speeds up the process of writing computer software. The startup said earlier this week that it had nabbed another $5 billion from Amazon, also at a valuation of $350 billion, with the option to inject another $20 billion over time. Anthropic raised $30 billion in Feb and investors have since sought to back the firm at a valuation of $800 billion or more.

Anthropic is a major customer of Google's chips and cloud services, businesses that Google is striving to grow as its main moneymaker, search advertising, matures. Google Cloud will provide 5 gigawatts worth of computing capacity to Anthropic over the next five years, and several more gigawatts could follow. The deal marks an expansion of an agreement announced earlier this month between Anthropic, Google and Broadcom Inc.

Google's tensor processing units are one of the best alternatives to Nvidia's chips, making them a precious resource for AI developers. BLOOMBERG

Justice dept drops Powell probe, clears path for Warsh to lead Fed

Jerome Powell (L), Kevin Warsh

The US justice department is ending a controversial probe into building-renovation cost overruns by the Federal Reserve (Fed), potentially clearing a path to confirmation for Kevin Warsh, President Trump's pick to be the next Fed chair replacing Jerome Powell.

US attorney Jeanine Pirro said in a social media post on Friday that the Fed inspector general had been asked to scrutinise the cost overruns. She said she expects a report soon on the findings. "I have directed my office to close our investigation as the inspector general undertakes this inquiry," Pirro said in the post. "Note well, however, that I will not hesitate to restart a criminal investigation should the facts warrant doing so."

Pirro initiated a legal battle to serve subpoenas to the central bank as part of a criminal investigation into the cost overruns and congressional testimony Powell provided.

The White House said in a statement that "American taxpayers deserve answers about the Federal Reserve's fiscal mismanagement, and the office of the inspector general's more powerful authorities best position it to get to the bottom of the matter."

Warsh, who appeared before the Senate Banking Committee this week, enjoys broad support among GOP lawmakers, but a key Republican senator, Thom Tillis of North Carolina, vowed to block his confirmation unless the justice department investigation was dropped.

The reversal was abrupt because Pirro said earlier this week she was committed to continuing the investigation. Pirro's office didn't reply to questions about what changed. Justice department leaders also had given their support to Pirro as a matter of principle to challenge a ruling that undercuts the ability of prosecutors to use grand juries during the early stages of an investigation.

US district chief judge James Boasberg in March quashed two grand jury subpoenas that Pirro's office served in Jan. Pirro had said she would appeal the ruling. The investigation threw the Federal Reserve's leadership transition into chaos, as Powell's term is scheduled to end on May 15. BLOOMBERG

WORLD DIGEST

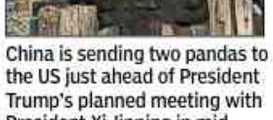
Pak completes repayment of $3.4bn UAE loan

Pakistan has returned the $3.4 billion it owed in debt to the UAE, the country's central bank said Friday. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in a social media post confirmed the repayment and said that the transaction was completed on Thursday. "State Bank of Pakistan repaid a deposit of $1 billion to Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), UAE on Thursday. Deposits of $2.4 billion were repaid last week. This completes the repayment of total deposits of $3.4 billion to UAE," it said. The announcement came days after Pakistan received $3 billion financial aid from Saudi Arabia.

US soldier charged with using classified intel to win $400k bet on Maduro raid

A US army soldier was charged on Friday with making $400,000 by using insider information to bet on the removal of ousted Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro. The soldier was later released on $250,000 bond, a justice department spokesman said. Gannon Van Dyke, who prosecutors say was involved in planning and executing the Jan 3 capture of Maduro from his Caracas home, was indicted on Thursday in Manhattan federal court on charges including commodities fraud, wire fraud and unlawful use of confidential information for personal gain. Van Dyke, a master sergeant with US army special forces, has been an active-duty soldier since 2008. FBI director Kash Patel said the announcement makes it clear that no one is above the law.

China set to send pandas to US before Trump's visit



China is sending two pandas to the US just ahead of President Trump's planned meeting with President Xi Jinping in mid-May. Zoo Atlanta said in a statement on Thursday that a male panda named Ping Ping and a female named Fu Shuang are part of an agreement reached with the China Wildlife Conservation Association. The new deal replaces the original one, which expired in 2024, the zoo said. China lends the animals out to zoos around the world as part of its so-called Panda Diplomacy, which can be used to reward friends or punish perceived misbehaviour. In Jan, China took back Japan's last two pandas, effectively halting a programme that had symbolised friendship between the two countries since diplomatic ties were re-established in 1972. Their return came while the neighbours were locked in a dispute over comments by Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi on the possibility of a scenario in which Tokyo might dispatch its military if Beijing were to attempt to take control of Taiwan by force.

From apps to arms: Sankaet Pathak and Silicon Valley's patriotic pivot

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Pathak first rose to prominence as founder of Synapse Financial Technologies, a fintech firm that collapsed into bankruptcy in 2024 amid a shortfall of up to $96 million in customer funds

Washington: A new doctrine is quietly reshaping America's technology-industrial complex, recasting Silicon Valley from a playground of consumer apps into an arsenal of strategic hardware. Dubbed "patriotic tech", the movement argues that technology firms have a moral and national duty to align with the state — particularly in its intensifying rivalry with China.

At the centre of its latest, most controversial iteration are Indian-American entrepreneur Sankaet Pathak and Eric Trump, whose venture, Foundation Future Industries, has vaulted into prominence with a Pentagon-backed push into battlefield robotics.

The firm, referred to as Foundation Industries, secured $24 million in research contracts from the Pentagon, along with a coveted SBIR Phase 3 designation that clears the way for broader procurement. Its flagship product, a humanoid robot named "Phantom", is designed for battlefield use — breaching hostile environments, transporting weapons and undertaking hazardous inspections that would otherwise endanger soldiers. Reports suggest early deployment could occur in Ukraine.

In TV appearances this week, Pathak and Eric touted the technology's "unlimited" potential across military, industrial, and even hospitality sectors. Eric, who serves as chief strategic adviser and a key financier, framed the robots as a force multiplier in modern warfare. But their partnership has drawn scrutiny, given the direct involvement of a sitting president's family member in securing multi-million dollar defence contracts.

Pathak's entry into this ecosystem is both striking and contentious. A University of Memphis graduate with degrees in engineering and physics, he first rose to prominence as the founder of Synapse Financial Technologies, a fintech firm that collapsed spectacularly into bankruptcy in 2024 amid a shortfall of up to $96 million in customer funds.

Now, reinvented as a defence entrepreneur, Pathak positions Foundation as a key player in what he calls the robotics race against China. His alignment with the Trump family — and the administration's broader "Pax Silica" strategy to secure supply chains among allied nations — has cemented his place in the patriotic tech camp, even as critics question the speed and scale of his resurgence.

The rise of Foundation reflects the growing clout of the "patriotic tech" doctrine — a term popularised by Jacob Helberg and Alex Karp. Helberg, now under secretary of state, laid out the intellectual framework in his book, 'The Wires of War', arguing technological supremacy is the new frontline of geopolitical conflict. Karp, chief executive of Palantir Technologies, has gone further, calling software and AI the "hard power" of the 21st century in his manifesto, 'The Technological Republic'.

At its core, patriotic tech rests on three pillars: rejecting corporate neutrality, prioritising hardware and defence innovation over consumer apps, and confronting what proponents see as an existential challenge from China. This worldview has attracted a powerful coalition of investors and founders, including Peter Thiel, a patron of US Veep JD Vance, Joe Lonsdale, a co-founder of Palantir, and Palmer Luckey, whose company, Anduril Industries, has become emblematic of the shift toward militarised innovation.

The movement has deepened divisions in Silicon Valley. While proponents argue that working with the military is a patriotic duty, critics — particularly in legacy tech firms like Google and Microsoft, both now headed by Indian-Americans — have resisted such engagements. Yet the momentum appears to be shifting. Private investment in defence tech surged to record levels in 2025, signalling capital — and increasingly policy — is flowing toward the "patriotic" side.

For India, rise of figures like Pathak offers a complex narrative. On one hand, it underscores the growing influence of the Indian diaspora in cutting-edge sectors of US power, going back to a time when Arati Prabhakar served as Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency director. On the other, it highlights the ethical and geopolitical dilemmas of a world where technology is no longer neutral.

This would not be a big deal in India or China, where tech firms, particularly in the public sector, are clearly aligned with national interest. But in an America whose global corporations exported technology worldwide, it sounds like another door being shut.

A thought for today

If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal

EMMA GOLDMAN

Bengal's Big Vote

Voters' SIR anxiety raises questions on the exercise

A turnout of almost 93%, in first phase of Bengal polls, sounds like a win for democracy. It's a record for any poll, ever, in India. Sceptics say this is a sleight of numbers. Since massive deletions during SIR reduced the voter base, turnout percentage was bound to look rosier. Yes, but despite deletions, 6% more votes were cast on Thursday than in 2021. Clearly, Bengal has voted with urgency. Why?

From all accounts, a current of anxiety drove the turnout. Bengali migrant workers, rushing home to vote, said in interviews that voting this time was key to avoiding the 'Bangladeshi' label. When they work away from home, Aadhaar and voter cards are their only identifiers. Amid the SIR confusion, the idea took hold that absentee voters would be struck off electoral rolls. In essence, Thursday's record turnout reflected a struggle to protect citizenship and associated rights.

This didn't happen by design, of course, but the roughshod conduct of SIR was bound to cause misgivings. State-wide, some 27L voter appeals against deletion are pending. This is disenfranchisement by procedure. All or most of them may eventually be found eligible to vote in future, but they've been denied a role in shaping Bengal's 2026 mandate. Is this a win for electoral democracy?

Voltaire said, "The perfect is the enemy of the good", and EC's zeal to hold a perfect election in Bengal is perhaps becoming counterproductive. Its orders to limit motorcycle use in Kolkata, and ban pillion riders, have drawn Calcutta HC's attention. When EC declares four dry days before voting, isn't it infantilising voters? For a true celebration of democracy, voters should be full of enthusiasm. But if they're driven by apprehension, everyone must introspect.

Exit The Dragonfly

A warning from Western Ghats. But who's listening?

In India's monsoon folklore, dragonflies arrive like whispered promises – tiny aviators that signal rain, renewal, and a farmer's cautious hope. Their flicker over fields has long been read as a good omen, a living forecast stitched into the sky. But all of that is in danger. A recent two-year survey, across Western Ghats, reveals an unsettling shift: a 35% decline in dragonfly and damselfly species. Researchers documented just 143 species across five states, a stark fall from the 222 once recorded.

Reasons are neither mysterious nor new. Freshwater systems are under siege from pollution, reckless infrastructure expansion, mining, and quarrying. Dragonflies double up as ecological sentinels. When they vanish, they take with them a verdict on water and air quality. Their decline is less a statistic and more a warning flare over one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots.

This trajectory was foreseen. In 2011, the Madhav Gadgil committee outlined a roadmap to protect Western Ghats, urging strict limits on extractive and large-scale construction activities in fragile zones. The plan was shelved, deemed inconvenient for growth. Globally, the crisis hums along – 16% of these species face extinction risks. Yet in India, the stakes feel more entwined. Dragonflies, monsoons, agriculture, and livelihoods form a single, intricate braid. Tug at one, and the whole system tightens. Ignore them, and the silence they leave behind may speak louder than any data.

Iranian Resistance, Regime Pushback

Protests were at inflection point... then US-Israel attacked

With negotiations to end the Iran war in limbo, there is much speculation about the status of the Iranian regime. Are there cracks or is the regime holding? More important, what do ordinary Iranians want? Battered by the conflict, is there now a rupture between Iranians and ayatollahs? Or has the regime solidified further?

Answers to these questions are complex. But in ***What Iranians Want: Women, Life, Freedom***, author ***Arash Azizi***, suggests that Iranian civil society may have already crossed a threshold. For, it would be a mistake to view the nationwide anti-regime movement, which was sparked by the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini in the hands of Iran's morality police, as an isolated event. Neither was it just about the hijab, which Mahsa was accused of improperly wearing. It was a coming together of multiple forces, building up for four decades, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

The hijab issue has been a point of contention since 1979. Back then, Ayatollah Khomeini had made clear his views on the Islamic dress code for women. The diktat was met with stiff opposition, especially in Iran's urban centres. Many secular and Left-leaning Iranian activists, who had also opposed the Shah, made their displeasure clear about Khomeini's obscurantist views. But, despite these protests, the anti-hijab movement was largely viewed as a side issue.

For example, Homa Nateq, a French-educated Leftist historian at University of Tehran, infamously said that wearing the hijab was the price for getting rid of imperialism. Years later, she would rue her words, from exile in UK, saying that she was wrong, and that "someone who tells you what to wear will soon also tell you what to think."

But Iranian women, throughout the decades, resisted the hijab in their quiet way. Mahsa's death became an inflection point, says the author, because it drew in people from all walks of Iranian life. Iran has had a significant history of trade unionism, despite the regime's efforts to crush this – union leaders were jailed, beaten up, even killed. But as protests around Mahsa's death gripped Iran, Isfahan steelworkers, and other labour unions joined in.

Their long-running demands (increased basic incomes, guaranteed jobs, end to crony privatisation) may have seemed apolitical. But they extended their support to the Women, Life, Freedom movement as part of a national awakening. Likewise, Iranian film industry and writers' associations, long bearing the brunt of Iran's censorship laws (actresses' earlobes were taped for 'modesty', a film was censored because it showed the rear end of buffaloes), were quick to join protests in 2022-23. This time, they were saying enough is enough.

From Iran's remote Sistan-Balochistan province – its poorest – to the Kurdistan regions, from pensioners to conservationists, who were deploring the precarious status of the Persian cheetah due to rampant environmental destruction in the name of development, all Iranians came together for the Women, Life, Freedom movement, per the author. This is what the regime had long feared – divide and rule had been its policy. The Pandora's Box of Iranian unity had been opened, and it would keep unsettling the regime, until it changed.

Which begs the question: Has the US-Israel war against Iran strengthened the anti-regime movement or helped the regime? Given the regime's multiple, and growing, domestic problems, perhaps this conflict is exactly what the ayatollahs wanted, and had prepared for.

Premiums For Premier League

IPL teams' sharply rising valuations are thanks to a smart business model, upgrade in ownership quality & real earnings potential. Expect another boom if media rights see competition again

Harsh Goenka

When Royal Challengers Bengaluru changed hands for ₹16,600cr in March, followed by Rajasthan Royals at ₹15,100cr, the cricket world gasped. Two franchises sold for nearly five times the original price of all eight IPL teams combined. IPL now commands a place alongside NFL and NBA, in global sports league valuations. How does a cricket tournament, operating merely 8-10 weeks annually, command such valuations? The answer lies in the convergence of media, technology, consumer behaviour, and financial engineering – these define IPL today.

Global benchmarks offer a sobering comparison. Average valuation of NFL teams exceeds $7bn, with media rights contributing roughly $312mn annually per franchise, a 22x valuation multiple. Apply that logic to IPL, where media rights average ₹484cr per team, and you would expect ₹10,600cr. Yet, recent deals hover around ₹16,000cr.

CVC Capital's exit from Gujarat Titans in Feb 2025, at a ₹7,500cr valuation (13x revenues), was aligned with global norms. At the time, Gujarat Titans was a new team – it was set up only in 2022 – and hence was still loss making. On the other hand, profit-making RCB was able to close the deal at 22-25x revenues, and over 100x net profit, astronomical when compared to Nifty, which trades at 21x.

So what justifies the leap?

First, an IPL team is a scarce commodity. It took 14 years to add two teams to the original roster. We have now reached a ceiling, taking into account the already stretched international cricketing schedule. Unless we find a way around that, and the IPL tournament window itself gets enhanced, the number of teams will have to remain ten. This elevates existing franchises to 'rare' status, with many chasing a few.

Second, the institutionalisation of ownership has been transformative, resulting in re-pricing the asset class. Entry of high-quality bidders like Birlas, Jains of Times Of India, Blackstone, and Bolt ventures into IPL teams brings governance benchmarks, analytical rigour, and capital at scale. The passion premium that an individual promoter was willing to pay, is now replaced by complex financial modelling of an institutional investor.

Third, look at the gigantic media potential, what one might call IPL's 'catchment area'. Media rights have compounded at 18% annually, from ₹800cr in 2008, to ₹9,600cr for the 2023-27 cycle, outpacing the EPL's 15%, and NFL's 10%. As per Jio's database, digital audiences, at 650mn, now surpass television viewership. Engagement metrics, like average match time of three hours and 23bn video views, for IPL 2025, compare favourably with the most engaging digital properties globally. IPL's media rights income, at over ~₹140cr per match, is higher than that of even EPL.

For brands, IPL has assumed a role analogous to Super Bowl in US, the single highest-reach platform for product launches, and consumer activations. Title sponsorship has risen, from the initial ₹40cr per year under DLF, to ₹500cr per year under Tatas, in the current cycle. Advertising revenue has grown, from ₹350cr in 2008, to an estimated ₹5,000cr by 2025.

Fourth, the business model of an IPL team is asset light, with virtually zero capex. Stadiums are leased, unlike in EPL, where all stadiums are owned by teams,

and involve significant investments. Top franchises are estimated to clock ₹600-700cr in annual revenues, with over 75% of that locked in before a ball is bowled. The central pool of media rights creates annuity cash flows, materially reducing risk premiums in any discounted cash flow model.

A hard salary cap, of ₹151cr per team, prevents a salary explosion in IPL. Ever-increasing salaries have chronically eroded margins across leagues like EPL. Also, there are no adverse consequences of underperformance, such as relegation. The net result is a capital-light, self-sustaining business, which looks far more like an infrastructure asset than a traditional sports club.

Fifth, IPL teams are strong brands in themselves, with a loyal fanbase that can be leveraged for future growth options. Teams like Mumbai Indians, which signed a three-year kit deal, or KKR, which has built a multi-geography brand ecosystem, extending to the Caribbean Premier League and others, offer early templates of what a more diversified franchise P&L might look like.

Women's Premier League adds another dimension. Its ecosystem value, though modest at ₹1,275cr in 2025, is growing. Television ratings for WPL 2025 jumped approximately 150% year-on-year, and digital viewership grew 70%, compared to the previous season. Plus, franchises with teams in leagues like The Hundred, SA20, CPLT20, and women's teams will have additional advantages of synergies in scouting, coaching, and sponsor-activation.

Yet, two headwinds demand attention.

First, media rights consolidation. With television and digital unified under JioStar, competitive tension has collapsed. Current rights-holders are estimated to lose over ₹16,000cr in this cycle. Hence the 2028-32 cycle may see only modest growth, a sharp deceleration from two decades of compounding. Since most of the franchise revenue flows from this stream, implications could be severe.

Second, the online gaming ban, which has eliminated an estimated ₹1,500-2,000cr in annual advertisement spends, has brought some gaps in the demand-supply scene. Any such regulatory moves in future could pour more cold water on the optimistic outlook.

Having said that, all the cards are not yet played out. Global tech platforms like Amazon, Netflix, Apple, and Google are waiting in the wings, to heat up the competition for media rights. IPL is the only content property that materially moves the needle for Indian consumer reach. Cricket's 2028 Olympic inclusion, and Major League Cricket's US growth, point to genuine international audiences no global streamer can ignore.

If one major tech player enters the 2028-32 rights cycle, that could propel the revenues for IPL's ecosystem even more northwards. Apart from media and sponsorships, IPL offers a huge future marketing opportunity, including through merchandising, brand licensing, and cricket academies. These under-exploited avenues lend a value beyond the franchise's existing base revenue model.

IPL, hence, is neither the simple growth story its promoters seek, nor the valuation bubble its sceptics occasionally imply. It is an asset class in transition, from one anchored by escalating media rights, and speculative sponsorship categories, to one that must be built on diversification, digital innovation, and the patience to monetise a 100cr fan base across a longer time horizon. Franchises being bought and sold today are being priced on that longer arc, for tomorrow, rather than today. And whatever the outcome, IPL has become India's best known global brand.

Why We Shouldn't Feel So Bad About Our Bad Sex Life

As philosopher Alain de Botton explains, modern lovers should redraw their expectations from relationships – they should value any satisfaction they get, as the norm really is sexual rejection

Advait Kamath

It's bad enough how bad our sex life usually feels. All these feelings are worsened by 'knowing' that we live in a liberated age, where others must be engaged in sexual relations with frequency, confidence, and joy. We, with our secret agony, must surely be the un-liberated oddities. In committed relationships, such self-flagellation can be worse. Because, isn't modern love inseparable from frequent and fulfilling sex with a long-term partner? Shouldn't every good marriage be enlivened by constant desire?

But think about it from the reverse viewpoint. That good sex is actually a rarity. Making this case, particularly in his 2012 book, *How to Think More About Sex*, British philosopher Alain de Botton pushes back against the idea of 'normal' sexual behaviour, including how much of sex one must be having. He advises people to redraw their expectations, and stop beating themselves up for the inevitable facts of biological life.

Domestic chores, financial planning, bringing up children, these are, after all, exhausting. And shifting registers from the everyday to the erotic, isn't easy. So, de Botton says, there can be wisdom in sometimes just turning over to the other side of the bed, ready to accept without rancour, with stoic calm, some of the necessary compromises of long-term love.

Look for a solution the next morning. Basically, some way has to be figured out to see our lover as if we had never laid our eyes on him or her before. Maybe, check into a hotel room for a night. Rediscover – away from the space where you fold your laundry, argue with a toddler, bicker with the AC repairman – the sexual identities that first drew you together.

Or, think of it as taking a leaf from Édouard Manet's book. When nobody except chefs, gourmands, and farmers was paying much attention to asparagus, in nineteenth-century France, Manet famously, and giving modern art a new direction, elevated this vegetable into a masterpiece. To rescue a long-term relationship from complacency and boredom, we have to rediscover from under the layers of habit and routine, our sexy lover.

What's sexy? It starts in the head. But unlike Freud, who sort of made everything about the sex motive, de Botton makes the opposite claim. That a lot of what looks like being about sex is actually about everything else that we care about in life. Its pleasures are continuous with our pleasure in other areas.

Image: AI

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

To take another example from art, one person can be deeply pulled towards Amrita Sher-Gil, another to Bharti Kher. German art historian Wilhelm Worringer theorised that such preferences are less about the artist's technical skills, more about the observer's own psychological needs. Maybe a restless self, seeks out serenity. Or a modest one, boldness. And it's the same with what we find sexy. We aren't just attracted to physical health or symmetry. We are also drawn to the personality traits we 'read' on someone's face, which can compensate for our own fragilities.

Often, of course, our attraction isn't reciprocated. And we can find it shattering, when someone says they would rather be just good friends with us. But remember, in primitive societies, people interpreted bad storms as god's punishment. We no longer take atmospheric conditions *personally*. Likewise, "however unbelievable it may seem when we are at the epicentre of suffering, sometimes a no is just a no."

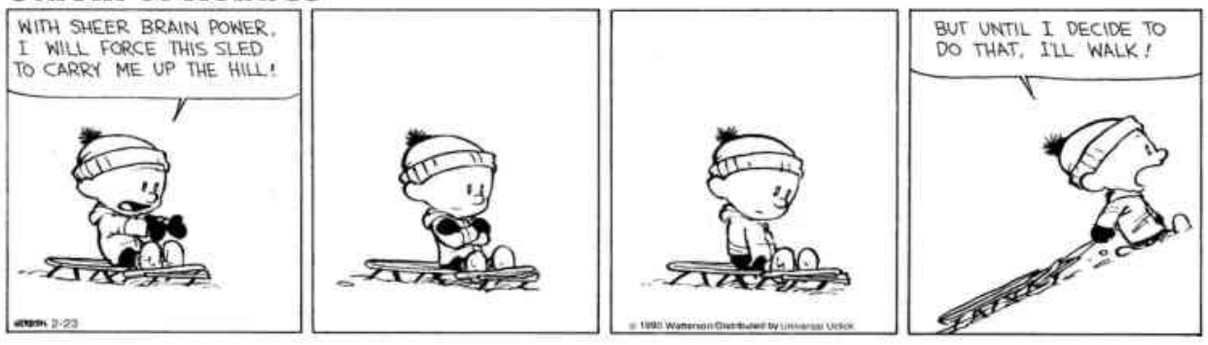
Sexual rejection is not even bad luck. It is the norm. Most of the people one meets are either uninterested in having sex with us, or revolted by the idea. That's exactly what makes mutual desire so special and spectacular. That which is revolting with others, becomes orgasmic with the right person. The two have found, verily, a private utopia.

Within this relationship, your fantasies are no longer 'dirty', but exciting. You can play sexual games, be aggressive or submissive, as you desire, without shame. Your hitherto buried impulses are safely welcomed. Relative strangers transitioning into intimates like this, is a momentous overcoming of loneliness.

In the grander scheme of things, sex never lasts long. That means, don't take manuals like *Kama Sutra* and *The Joy of Sex* solemnly. The way they shill lotus positions, ice cubes, and other adventures, should not prevent us from appreciating our good fortune, in the sexual experiences we *are* privileged to have.

Finally, our sex drive isn't just fundamentally disruptive, it's also a vital lesson in humility. As de Botton says, it's sex that creates necessary havoc in the ordinary hierarchies of power, status, money, and intelligence. It diddles everybody, and if all human beings are ultimately absurd, they shouldn't take themselves too seriously.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

If your mind is at peace, you are happy. If your mind is at peace, but you have nothing else, you can be happy. If you have everything the world can give — pleasure, possessions, power — but lack peace of mind, you can never be happy.

Dada J P Vaswani

Global Turmoil: Ask, How Steady Is My Mind?

Hansaji Yogendra

When troubled by uncertainty owing to worldly events, our tendency is to seek reassurance externally – in leaders, policies, or outcomes. The yogic way is that when the outer world trembles, the inner world must be kept steady.

The Gita was revealed on a battlefield and not in a serene ashram. Wisdom does not arise in the absence of turmoil, but in the midst of it. Krishn does not promise Arjun a world free of conflict, but instead, he teaches him how to respond without losing balance. When the mind is constantly anchored in awareness, uncertainty loses its power and a deeper understanding gradually dawns.

Global turmoil is, in so many ways, a collective reflection of the human mind. Not only ordinary citizens but also nations are affected by fear, ambition and insecurity. When citizens and leaders are mentally agitated, decisions become reactive. When minds are calm, it reflects in the responses, which become thoughtful and far-sighted. Maharishi Patanjali defined yog as *Yogas chitta vritti nirodhah* – Yog is cessation of modifications of the mind. This teaching applies to global leadership and to personal life. A disturbed state of mind, whether it is in one person or in a collective, cannot create lasting peace.

Our ethical foundations are tested during uncertainty. When times are hard, there is a temptation to compromise values in the name of security. Yogic teachings caution us against this drift. The *yams* and *niyams* – truthfulness, nonviolence, contentment, and discipline – are not meant only for peaceful periods. They are especially essential when the world is unstable. Ethical values, based on awareness, prevent power from becoming destructive and fear from becoming dominant.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Yogic teachings do not require us to disengage from the world or to ignore political realities. On the contrary, it sharpens our observation and discernment. A trained yogic mind observes events without panic, acts without hatred, and stands firm without rigidity. In times of uncertainty, even the simple act of conscious breathing becomes an effective pacifier. The breath anchors us in the present moment, activates our parasympathetic nervous system, and prevents fear of the future from hijacking the mind. When awareness replaces anxiety, peace prevails.

India's spiritual heritage promotes the vision of *Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam* – the world is one family. This is not idealism, but a timeless insight born of yogic perception. When humanity is seen as divided, conflict is inevitable. When humanity is experienced as a whole, compassion comes naturally. Our world is interdependent, and the suffering of one nation cannot be isolated from that of another.

Uncertainty is not a flaw in existence; it is its nature. Most attempts to eliminate uncertainty only deepen anxiety. We need acceptance without passivity. A yogic response does not deny or surrender to uncertainty. It cultivates a deeper stability that allows change to be met with intelligence rather than impulse. When one's mind is trained in this way, fear and uncertainty transform from threats into teachers.

Swadhyaya, introspection, has the power to influence global outcomes. The world is shaped not only by actions, but by the state of mind. Collective agitation increases chaos, just as collective calmness restores peace. When millions of people cultivate awareness, patience, and compassion in their lives, the planet's emotional climate changes. The seeds of peace germinate quietly, long before they appear in policy.

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

The Week That Was...

Weak IT Forecasts, Oil Price Hikes Drag Equities To Losses

Equity indices fell as brent hovered around $107/barrel over West Asia tensions and IT stocks slumped after weak forecasts from Infosys and HCLTech. Sensex fell 2.3% to close at 76,681 and Nifty lost 1.9%, closing at 23,898

Sensex -2.3%

Sensex Gainers

Trent	4.6%
Hindustan Unilever	3.9%
NTPC	2.1%

Laggards

HCL Tech	-16.6%
Infosys	-12.4%
Tech Mahindra	-10.1%

GOLD -0.5% | CRUDE 9.5% | BITCOIN 1.3%

₹4.6L cr

Was the value of total premiums collected by the life insurance industry in FY26, up from about ₹4L cr in FY25. New business premiums for the industry grew by 15.7% in FY26

Source: BSE, Reuters, screener.in

Sebi okays FPI net settlement of stocks in cash

Mumbai: To allow more liquidity to foreign funds, markets regulator Sebi on Friday allowed net settlement of stocks in the cash market for these investors. Effective Dec 31, 2026, foreign funds will be allowed to net out all their purchases and sales, but not both, in a particular stock in a settlement cycle. Transactions in securities by foreign funds with only outright sell or outright purchase shall be net settled to arrive at net fund obligation for such outright transactions, a Sebi circular said. TNN

Cyient logs lacklustre FY26 performance

Bengaluru: Mid-tier IT firm Cyient reported a subdued performance for FY26, with both quarterly and full-year revenues declining amid weak demand. For the March quarter, revenue stood at $209.9 million, down 4.8% year-on-year in reported terms and 7.2% in constant currency. For the full year, revenue fell 5.7% in dollar terms to $820.8 million. In constant currency, it declined by 4.3%. TNN

BlueStone Q4 revenue up 44% to ₹696 cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: BlueStone reported a strong March quarter, with revenue rising nearly 44% to Rs 696.6 crore from Rs 484.3 crore a year earlier. The company swung to a net profit of Rs 31.2 crore, compared with a loss of Rs 51.3 crore in the same period last year, driven by higher sales, same-store growth and operating leverage.

For the 2025-26 financial year, revenue grew 36% to Rs 2,486 crore, while the company posted a net profit of Rs 13.2 crore, compared with a loss of Rs 221.8 crore in the previous year. Same-store sales grew 34% during the quarter, aided by a recovery in entry-level portfolios after earlier disruptions caused by gold price volatility. The company said it redesigned its entry-level offerings by tweaking materials, manufacturing techniques and karatage, while consumers continued to spend within preferred price points.

Management noted that rising gold prices inflated closing inventory values and impacted inventory turns. Mature stores—those operating for over three to four years—reported inventory turns of around 1.7–1.9 times.

West Asia war weighs on RIL results, Q4 profits decline 9%

O2C Division Hit Hard By Rising Costs, Supply Chain Disruptions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Reliance Industries, India's most valuable company by market capitalisation, posted a 9% fall in quarterly profit on Friday, as surging crude prices driven by the West Asian conflict weighed on its core oil-to-chemicals (O2C) division.

Consolidated net profit fell to Rs 20,589 crore in the March quarter, falling short of analyst forecasts, while revenues rose 13% to Rs 2.98 lakh crore. Ebitda climbed 4% to Rs 48,423 crore, as expenses rose at a faster pace of 15% to Rs 2.75 lakh crore.

Ebitda at the O2C division, which accounted for roughly a third of total operating profit, fell nearly 4% to Rs 14,520 crore in the fourth quarter from a year earlier, reflecting a sharp rise in crude, freight and insurance costs stemming from the conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran, as well as disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. "The O2C business navigated a complex global environment... The war in West Asia has led to unprecedented dislocation in global supply chains," said Mukesh Ambani, chairman and MD of Reliance.

Jio, the company's digital arm, posted a 16% rise in ebitda to Rs 20,041 crore, driven by steady revenue growth and a 230 basis point expansion in margins. Average revenue per user, a closely watched metric for telecom operators, rose 4% to Rs 214 in the quarter. Launched in 2016, Jio had 524 million customers as of March 31, 2026, cementing its position as the world's second-largest telecom operator by subscribers. Data and voice traffic on its network grew 35% and 3% respectively. Ambani said Jio was "advancing steadily towards listing", without elaborating, adding that the move would mark "a defining milestone in its journey."

RIL's retail division posted a 3% rise in ebitda to Rs 6,921 crore amid intensifying competition, even as revenue from operations grew 11%. The unit operated 20,160 outlets as of March 31, 2026.

The oil and gas division posted an 18% decline in ebitda to Rs 4,195 crore, hurt by lower revenues and higher operating costs from maintenance activity and government levies. Smaller businesses, including media, posted a 21% rise in ebitda to Rs 2,746 crore.

"The breadth of our portfolio and strong domestic orientation helped navigate volatility in the external environment," Ambani said.

REVENUE GROWS 12.9% TO ₹3L CR

RIL's biz segments	Operating profit (₹ cr)	Operating profit growth in March qtr (%)
Digital services (Jio)	20,041	16
Oil to chemicals	14,520	-3.7
Retail	6,921	3
Oil & gas	4,195	-18.1
Others	2,746	21

(Op. profit = Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation & amortisation)

"The oil to chemicals business navigated a complex global environment during the year. The West Asia war has led to unprecedented dislocation in global supply chains... We are advancing steadily towards the listing of Jio Platforms. This will mark a defining milestone in its journey... —MUKESH AMBANI | CHAIRMAN, RIL

Domestic cos make 28% smartphones in India

Dixon With 19% Share Emerges As Largest, Overtakes Samsung, Bhagwati Corners 9%

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New Delhi: One in four smartphones manufactured in India is now produced by domestic contract manufacturers, signalling a quiet but significant shift in the country's electronics ecosystem.

The rise has been led by Dixon Technologies and Bhagwati Products, with Dixon emerging as the country's largest device maker, overtaking Samsung Electronics in overall production volumes in 2025.

Dixon Technologies led the EMS (electronics manufacturing services) rankings with a 19% share, posting an 89% jump in production. The growth was fuelled by rising orders from brands, such as Motorola, Realme and Xiaomi, reflecting a broader pivot by global firms towards outsourced manufacturing. According to data from Counterpoint, Foxconn followed with a 16% share (up from 12% in 2024), driven largely by export-linked shipments tied to Apple. Samsung, despite its scale, slipped to an 18% share (down from 20% in 2024) with only modest export gains.

Bhagwati Products, a joint venture between Micromax Informatics and top Chinese original design manufacturer (ODM) Huaqin Technologies, broke into the top five manufacturers, with a 9% share. Its expansion has been anchored in contract manufacturing mandates from Vivo, Oppo and Realme, a sign that Chinese smartphone brands are deepening local partnerships as they recalibrate supply chains.

In 2025, India's smartphone manufacturing grew 8%. Exports surged 28% during the year, contributing nearly one-third of total output, while domestic sales rose just 1%.

Analysts said this shift is being reinforced by policy support, including production-linked incentives and eased foreign investment rules. Abdul Rahman Khan, research analyst, Counterpoint Research told **TOI** that Oppo and Vivo's outsourcing push has been a key inflection point. Both Vivo and Oppo began scaling outsourcing meaningfully around 2024, but volumes ramped up once it did, flowing to domestic manufacturers like Bhagwati Products. In case of Bhagwati Products, its partnership with Huaqin, which has an established supply chain presence and relations in the industry, has also worked, Khan said. Amid the FDI scrutiny by Indian authorities, Chinese companies are increasingly tying up with local players to set up joint ventures for manufacturing in India.

"The PLI cycle nearing its end is also triggering a redistribution of volumes," he said. "We are seeing a share of that shift towards players like Dixon Technologies as brands recalibrate cost and partnership strategies."

Exports are expected to remain the primary growth engine in 2026, with smartphones continuing to anchor India's electronics push. But risks remain, warn analysts. "Near-term headwinds, such as disruptions due to the US-Iran war could impact logistics, while sustained increases in memory prices may create demand-side pressures over the longer term," said Tarun Pathak, research director, Counterpoint Research.

LEADING THE PACK

Rank	Manufacturer	Share (%)
1	Dixon Tech	19
2	Samsung Electronics	18
3	Foxconn	16
4	Vivo	10
5	Bhagwati Products	9
	Others	28

➤ Dixon Tech's exports surge 89% YoY on orders from Motorola, Realme and Xiaomi

➤ Vivo, Oppo outsourcing lifts Bhagwati Products into top five manufacturers

Source: Counterpoint Research

RBI scraps licence of Paytm Payments Bank

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI on Friday cancelled the banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank with immediate effect, prohibiting it from carrying out any banking business and setting in motion the process for winding up, even as the entity had already been reduced to a run-off institution after earlier restrictions.

RBI said it will apply for winding up of the bank before the High Court. It added that the bank has enough liquidity to repay its entire deposit liability upon winding up. PPBL has been encouraging depositors to withdraw funds after restrictions on all activities two years ago left the bank a defunct institution.

While the winding down itself does not have a material impact on One97 Communications, the company that owns the Paytm brand, RBI has invoked various sections that empower it to close banks if it has an adverse view of the bank's operations. This might intensify regulatory scrutiny on the parent and on any new or existing licences held by group entities, and might act as a red flag for new RBI licences.

WINDING UP

RBI said "The affairs of the bank were conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of the bank and its depositors", adding that "the general character of the management of the bank is prejudicial to the interest of depositors as also the public interest". It said "no useful purpose or public interest would be served by allowing the bank to continue", and added that the bank failed to comply with licence conditions.

The cancellation follows a series of curbs that had already curtailed operations. RBI had directed the bank to stop onboarding new customers from March 11, 2022. It later imposed restrictions on Jan 31, 2024 and Feb 16, 2024 that disallowed further deposits, credits, or top-ups in customer accounts, prepaid instruments, and wallets. After these measures, the entity was left only with withdrawal of existing balances and settlement of pending transactions, effectively operating as a passive balance-holding institution.

The broader payments ecosystem linked to the platform continues outside the bank. UPI services are now extended as a third party provider using handles of banks such as Axis Bank, Yes Bank, and State Bank of India, allowing users to continue transactions through the app.

'India, US make positive progress in trade talks'

New Delhi: India and the US made positive progress during three-day trade talks in Washington this week, with both sides agreeing to remain engaged to sustain the momentum going forward, govt said on Friday.

About a dozen officers from India were in Washington during April 20-22 to hold discussions with the US authorities on finalising the details of the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

The talks deliberated on issues including market access, non-tariff measures, technical barriers to trade, customs and trade facilitation, investment promotion, economic security alignment and digital trade, the commerce ministry said in a statement.

"The meetings were conducted in a constructive and positive spirit, with meaningful and forward-looking discussions enabling progress on key matters. Both sides agreed to remain engaged to maintain this momentum as they move forward," it said.

As the tariff landscape has changed in the US, both sides are re-looking at the framework of the agreement, the text of which was released on Feb 7. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer has said India is a "tough nut to crack". AGENCIES

Continue with human touch amid digital push, banks told

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Pune: Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on Friday said that banks should continue to have a human interface while serving the customers despite the massive thrust on digitisation.

"Digitisation should happen. It brings in greater inclusivity. But as this digitisation is happening we should ask ourselves whether we are getting distant from our customer base," she said in Pune at the inauguration of the Local Head Office (LHO) for the Maharashtra Circle (excluding Mumbai) in Pune today. Until the shift, SBI's both LHOs (Maharashtra and Mumbai metro) operated out of BKC Mumbai.

Sitharaman also laid emphasis on bank funding for legacy industrial clusters largely MSME. Maharashtra is known for MSMEs which has to be given support. Particularly, eastern and south-eastern districts of Maharashtra have had their legacy industrial clusters for generations, she added.

After the digital inclusion happens, it cannot be the case that the customers are performing all functions from the phone. There are some important decisions that the customer needs to take and requires hand holding by bankers, she said.

Sitharaman said that in times of global turmoil, banks have a major role to play in boosting domestic consumption. "Domestic consumption has stood by us well when global markets are in a churn and exports are taking a beating. No doubt, despite the tariffs and other challenges our exporters have been able to find newer markets and keep exports floating," she said.

Tech hiring: AI-native talent, problem solvers in demand

▶ Continued from page 1

Though hiring has not fallen to FY24 levels — when the sector saw steep cuts of more than 69,000 jobs — the uneven recovery signals limited growth visibility and a clear preference for efficiency over scale. Hiring is increasingly focused on AI-native talent, problem solvers and specialists in areas such as AI, data, cloud, and cybersecurity.

Infosys, Wipro and HCLTech continued to add employees, albeit cautiously, reflecting selective hiring and tighter control on utilisation and margins. The broader trend points to a structural reset in the sector. Nasscom data shows total industry headcount rose by 1.35 lakh to 5.9 million in 2026, marginally higher than last year's addition of 1.33 lakh. Much of the incremental hiring demand is being driven by global capability centres (GCCs), which continue to expand their mandates in India for the third consecutive year.

"There is a macro slowdown element, especially in discretionary spend, but AI is the bigger underlying force. This isn't because it is replacing jobs overnight, but because it is fundamentally changing delivery economics. Clients want outcomes, speed and productivity gains, not just headcount," said Phil Fersht, CEO of US-based IT advisory HFS Research.

Infosys CEO Salil Parekh's commentary on talent reflects this shift. The company is broadening hiring beyond a single skill profile, bringing in diverse, AI-aligned talent with differentiated starting pay. It is also building forward-deployed engineering teams — customer-facing engineers embedded with clients — to co-develop and deploy AI-led solutions faster. Analysts say firms are increasingly prioritising experienced talent that can work with frontier technologies at scale.

"We expect many firms to reach 20% digital labour over the next 24 months and lift average revenue per employee from $50,000 to $80,000," said Ray Wang, the principal analyst at Constellation Research, adding that this will likely coincide with overall workforce reductions. After pandemic-era hiring of more than 273,000 employees in FY22, the sector is now recalibrating amid slower discretionary spending, automation and rapid AI adoption.

REVERSES GAINS

Company	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22
TCS	-23,460	6,433	-13,249	22,600	103,546
Infosys	5,016	6,338	-25,994	29,219	54,396
Wipro	8,810	732	-24,516	13,793	45,416
HCLTech	3,761	-4,061	1,537	17,067	39,900
TechM	-1,108	3,276	-6,945	1,227	30,119
Total	**-6,981**	**12,718**	**-69,167**	**83,906**	**273,377**

Figures represent net addition | Source: Regulatory filing

Ageas eyes acquisitions to grow India presence

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Mumbai: Belgium's top insurer present in life and non-life in India aims to break into the top 10, and will also explore acquisition opportunities as they arise, deepening its commitment to one of its fastest-growing markets. The strategy builds on earlier moves, including becoming the first insurer in India to hold over 70% in a life venture in September 2022 and acquiring a 40% stake in Royal Sundaram General Insurance, as part of a broader Asian play spanning nine markets where the group already holds top-five positions in several geographies.

In an interview with **TOI**, Hans De Cuyper, global CEO of Ageas Group, said India remains a priority market where the focus is firmly on scaling existing operations rather than considering exits. The insurer is currently ranked around 12 in life (Ageas Federal Life) and 15 in non-life (Royal Sundaram General) and, alongside its partner Federal Bank, is targeting a top-10 position in life insurance. "India is a key growth market for us, and our priority is to scale up our existing businesses rather than look at exits," he said, adding, "we are growing faster than the market and remain open to inorganic opportunities or new distribution to accelerate this journey." He emphasised that "as long as returns are attractive, we will continue to deploy capital to support growth," while ruling out near-term listing plans, noting, "we are long-term investors and are not considering IPOs or exits at this stage." On distribution, De Cuyper said bancassurance remains central to the group's India strategy despite regulatory concerns around mis-selling. "Bancassurance remains a strong and relevant model, as banks are well placed to offer integrated financial advice," he said, while acknowledging that "concerns around mis-selling are valid, but they are not unique to bancassurance and need to be addressed across all channels."

"India is a key growth market for us, and our priority is to scale up our existing businesses rather than look at exits

"Our model is highly localised, with each market managing its own operations rather than centralising back offices globally. We see outsourcing as a local, market-driven decision rather than a group-wide strategy

—Hans De Cuyper | GLOBAL CEO, AGEAS GROUP

On operations, he underscored the group's decentralised approach, saying, "our model is highly localised, with each market managing its own operations rather than centralising back offices globally," adding that while outsourcing exists in some markets, "we see it as a local, market-driven decision rather than a group-wide strategy."

De Cuyper said high valuations in India's insurance sector reflect underlying growth potential rather than excess. "The elevated multiples underscore the significant growth opportunity in the market," he said, adding that over time "margins are expected to benefit from scale given the fixed-cost nature of the business," alongside a shift towards higher-margin protection products. He also highlighted "significant headroom" in retirement and pension segments and said the group would be open to entering the space "if the right opportunity arises."

Welcoming regulatory changes, he said the shift to risk-based capital and IFRS, particularly IFRS 17, is "a positive move" that will "improve transparency and provide a clearer view of the intrinsic performance of long-term insurance businesses."

US chip firms hit record highs as Intel spurs AI rally

US chip stocks soared to record highs on Friday, with Intel's unexpectedly strong revenue forecast fuelling fresh optimism that the AI boom driving this year's rally in the semiconductor sector is showing no signs of slowing down.

The Philadelphia Semiconductor Index rose 2.5% to an all-time high and was on track to extend its record-breaking streak of single-day gains to 18. Chip stocks have emerged as some of the biggest gainers of the spending spree by tech giants on scaling up their AI infrastructure. The semiconductor sub-industry alone is expected to record first-quarter earnings growth of 104.9%, much higher than the broader S&P 500 information technology sector, whose earnings growth is seen at 46.2%, according to LSEG.

Intel surged 22.3% to surpass its dotcom-era peak in 2000 following a robust revenue outlook that signalled strong demand for central processors (CPUs). Nvidia rose 1.2%. Much of last year's rally in chip stocks was driven by Nvidia, whose gains were fuelled by strong demand for its flagship GPUs. REUTERS

Sensex slides 1k points on oil surge, ₹ fall

Mumbai: Rising oil prices weighed on investor sentiment on Dalal Street for the third consecutive session that pulled sensex down by 1,000 points (1.3%) on Friday to close at 76,664 points. Foreign funds continued to sell aggressively, leading to a 2,609-point fall in the sensex in the last three sessions. The weakness of the rupee that fell against the dollar for the fifth consecutive session, also dampened investors' sentiment, market players said.

The sell-off also left investors poorer by nearly Rs 5 lakh crore

The sell-off also left investors poorer by nearly Rs 5 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 461.5 lakh crore, official data showed.

IT stocks were the worst hit in Friday's market, with BSE IT index closing 5.1% down. The strong selling in this sector was on the back of weak business forecasts from two of the sector leaders, Infosys and HCL Tech, post their quarterly results this week, analysts said. TNN

SNAP SHOTS

Shambhavi, Divyanshu win mixed team gold

Shooters Shambhavi Kshirsagar and Divyanshu Dewangan clinched the 10m air rifle mixed team gold with a world record score of 499.9 as India claimed its fourth gold in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Cairo on Friday.In the 25m rapid-fire pistol men junior event, Sameer made the finals cut but finished seventh eventually.

India look to salvage pride: The series is lost, but India will still have a lot to play for in the fourth Women's T20I against South Africa in Johannesburg on Saturday, including salvaging pride, restoring rhythm, and setting the tone for what lies ahead in the World Cup year. Hosts South Africa have already taken an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match rubber and are aiming for a clean sweep to continue their unbeaten streak at home, even as the Indians seek to bring to an end a series of disappointing performances .

Bracewell gets two-year ban: Former New Zealand international Doug Bracewell has been handed a two-year suspension after testing positive for cocaine before his retirement from all cricket last year, England's Cricket Regulator said on Friday. The 35-year-old all-rounder, who retired from all forms of cricket in Dec after finishing his career in England with Essex, tested positive for cocaine and its metabolite, benzoylecgonine, in an in-competition sample taken on Sept 25 last year, the regulator said.

Bates to end career after T20 WC: New Zealand will bid farewell to one of its cricketing greats when all-rounder Suzie Bates calls time on her international career at the end of the White Ferns' T20 World Cup campaign in England. The record-breaking 38-year-old confirmed on Friday she will retire after 20 years at the highest level. "When I look back on the past 20-plus years, I can't quite believe how quickly the time has gone," she said in a New Zealand Cricket statement. "I'm immensely proud to have worn the fern so many times, and I've been filled with enormous purpose and joy in striving each day to be a better person, teammate, cricketer, and athlete for this team.

Abhay enters quarters: India's Abhay Singh registered a notable win over Egyptian world No 13 Aly Abou Eleinen to enter his maiden PSA Gold-level event quarterfinals at the Grasshopper Cup squash in Zurich. World No. 24 Abhay trailed 5-8 in the opening game before recovering to beat the seventh seed 12-10, 11-9 in the second round.

Diksha placed T-11: India's Diksha Dagar fired five birdies on the back nine to turn in a five-under 68 and lie just outside the Top-10 at the Investec SA Women's Open in Cape Town. Among the other Indians, Pranavi Urs (70) was T-20, Hitaashee Bakshi (72) and Avani Prashanth (73) was T-64. The remaining two women, Tvesa Malik (74) and Vani Kapoor (75) were T-82 and T-92 respectively and will need to go low to make the cut.

Modest start for Aditi: India's Aditi Ashok endured a disappointing start to her campaign in The Chevron Championship here as she carded 2-over 74 and was placed tied 80th after the first day in Houston.

Chelsea's Estevao out for season: Brazilian winger Estevao is out for the rest of the English season, with his participation in the World Cup in doubt, Chelsea interim boss Calum McFarlane said on Friday. The 19-year-old suffered a hamstring injury in last week's 1-0 defeat by Manchester United.

UEFA suspends Benfica's Prestianni: Benfica's Gianluca Prestianni was handed a six-match suspension for discriminatory conduct that was deemed homophobic in a Champions League match against Real Madrid, UEFA announced. Prestianni will effectively be banned for two more matches after UEFA said that a further three-match suspension would be "subject to a probationary period of two years, starting from the date of the present decision."

WC TICKETS LISTED FOR MORE THAN $2 MN

New York: FIFA's resale site has four tickets on sale for the World Cup final for just under $2.3 million each. The $2,299,998.85 seats for the July 19 match at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, are located behind a goal in the lower deck in block 124, row 45, seats 33-36.

FIFA does not control the asking prices on its Resale/Exchange Marketplace but takes a 15% purchase fee from the buyer of each ticket and a 15% resale fee from the seller. An aisle seat 33 in block 146, row 32 of the lower deck listed as easy access standard was listed at $207,000, while a category two seat in the last row of the uppermost third deck was listed at $138,000 for block 310, row 26, seat 23. A few feet away, seat 21 has an asking price of $23,000.

The lowest-priced tickets for the final listed Thursday on the Marketplace were $10,923.85 for four seats four rows from the top of the upper deck behind a goal, in block 323, row 23, seats 13-16.

FIFA put new blocks of tickets on sale Wednesday on its direct tickets site. Available tickets for the final cost $10,990.

Tickets were available from FIFA at $11,130 for the July 14 semifinal in Arlington, Texas, and at $9,660 and $4,360 for the July 15 semifinal in Atlanta. rices for the US opener against Paraguay on June 12 at Inglewood, California, were listed at $4,105, $2,735, $2,330 and $1,940, while seats for the Americans' second match against Australia on June 19 at Seattle cost $2,715. AP

SARAH TARGETS REPEAT SHOW

The Defending Champion From Uganda Has Arrived In The City Fitter And Is Raring To Go

Biju.BabuCyriac@timesofindia.com

ALL SET : Elite athletes pose for a picture in front of the Vidhana Soudha on Friday. (Right) The super market under construction in Uganda. (Inset) Sarah (left) with her aunt

Bengaluru: Around this time last year, Sarah Chelangat's life changed for the better. Battling through pain, she clinched the TCS World 10K title, and with the prize money, the Ugandan athlete took her big step into business.

Even as work continues on her new venture — a supermarket back home in East Africa — Sarah has returned to the city, chasing an encore.

WORLD 10K BENGALURU

Sarah, who clocked 31:07s to win last year's title and the winner's cheque of $26,000 (approximately Rs 25 lakh), will once again have her eyes on the biggest prize when the women's elite race begins at 5.30 am on Sunday.

"I used that money to build a new business. The construction work is expected to be completed in a month," said Sarah, whose personal best over 10K stands at 30:24, set in Valencia in 2023, told TOI. In addition to the winner's cheque, Sarah can pocket another $8,000 as a bonus if she betters the course record. "So far, I've spent 100 million Ugandan shillings (1 USD = around 3700 Ugandan shillings), and I need 10 million more. But no, it's not just for the prize money that I'm here," she added with a smile.

Besides investing in real estate, the 24-year-old has also been supporting her community. "With my earnings, I pay the school fees of some poor kids. I also built a home for my parents," she said.

"Last year, I ran with hip pain, but this time I'm fully fit and hope to clock a better time. I like to run in Bengaluru because I love the people in India and Bengaluru. They are so welcoming," the 24-year-old stated. Asked about her experience of the Bengaluru course, which she conquered with a dominant win last year, Sarah said: "It's a good course. The weather was warm, but it was still good."

She heads into this year's race with confidence after setting a new national record while winning the Hoka Semi de Paris. Sarah trains under coach Addy Ruiter in Kapchorwa, a scenic town around 300 km from the capital Kampala, on the slopes of Mount Elgon.

"My training group includes Victor Kiplangat (2023 World Marathon champion) and Joshua Cheptegei (10,000m Olympic champion)," said Sarah, who is employed with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) as a corporal ranger.

Uganda's challenge in the men's section will be led by 20-year-old Harbert Kibet, who comes in with a personal best of 26:39. He clocked that time earlier this year while winning the 10K Facsa Castellon in Spain.

India submits expression of intent for Asiad

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Bengaluru: India on Friday officially submitted its Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to host the 2038 Asian Games, with Ahmedabad once again emerging as the front runner to host the event.

The Indian Olympic Association delegation led by president PT Usha submitted the EOI during the OCA executive board meeting, on the sidelines of the Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China. India last hosted the Asiad in New Delhi in 1982. The Capital also hosted the inaugural Asian Games in 1951.

"It is at a very preliminary stage where we sent in the expression of interest that we would like to host the 2038 Asian Games. The OCA has taken it into consideration. They will discuss it and arrive at a decision," IOA CEO Raghuram Iyer told TOI.

2038 GAMES

"The next two Asian Games are already allotted with the 2030 and '34 Games with Doha and Riyadh, we are interested to get the next one in 2038. The ball is in OCA's court to tell us what the next steps would be," he said, adding that there are a few more interested countries, including Korea and Mongolia.

On the host city, the senior IOA official said: "Right now, it looks like Ahmedabad is the front runner. I think the OCA's decision will come around 2028 and that's when the Olympics (2036) will also be announced."

The 2026 edition will be held in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan from September 19 to October 4.

With regard to India's bid for the 2036 Olympics, Iyer said India is still very much in the race. "We are in the state of continuous dialogue with the IOC before it goes to the targeted dialogue. Last we met them was in Milan at the Winter Olympics. IOC is itself in a pause in the select phase wherein they are slow-pedalling a bit. Next they will engage with us, probably in June-July, and winning the bid to host the CWG 2030 was a big step in this direction," he said.

Besides India, Qatar, Korea, Hungary and Turkey are also in the race to host the 2036 Olympics.

'Load carbs, stay hydrated'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As thousands of runners lace up for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru on Sunday — across categories ranging from the Majja Run (4.2K) to the Senior Citizen Run (3K) — experts have advised participants to focus on carb-loading and proper hydration to perform at their best.

"On the day of the run, have food that contains mainly carbohydrates and is easy on your gut. Take a portion that gives you ample energy but, at the same time, is not very heavy," said Shalini, chief dietician at Fortis Hospital, speaking to TOI.

She recommended foods that are low in fibre and fat to avoid gastrointestinal discomfort. "Idli with chutney, poha with curd, or Greek yogurt with a fruit smoothie are all good options," she said.

Warning runners against last-minute experimentation,

GET READY

Shalini added: "Never try anything new on race day, be it food or hydration. Stick to the practice you are used to."

With another hot day expected in the Garden City, hydration will be key. "Have 500 ml of water two to three hours before the run. Then, 10 to 15 minutes prior, another 250 ml can be taken. Listen to your thirst and keep taking fluids. As a thumb rule, 150 to 350 ml every 15 to 20 minutes is ideal. Observe your sweat rate and replenish accordingly," she said. She also cautioned against relying only on water. "Never hydrate only with water, as that can lead to hyponatraemia — a condition where sodium levels in the blood drop below the normal range. We must replenish electrolytes as well, which are lost through sweat," she explained.

Recovery after the race is just as important, Shalini stressed. "Try to have protein- and carbohydrate-rich food within 30 to 60 minutes."

Abhay, Nipam fastest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Reliance's Abhay Singh and Uttar Pradesh's Nipam emerged as the fastest athletes of the 24th National Junior U-20 Federation Athletics Championships, which began at the Mahatma Gandhi Stadium in Tumakuru on Friday.

Abhay clocked 10.41s to beat the challenge from Jammu and Kashmir's Yuvraj Singh and UP's Anshu Rajak, who ended in a photo finish after both clocked 10.52s. Meanwhile, Nipam won the women's dash, timing 11.53s and outrunning Tamil Nadu's Bhavana G (11.87s) and Gujarat's Kajal Vaja (11.88s). Both Abhay and Nipam, notably, also met the qualification mark of the Asian U-20 athletics meet, set to take place in Hong Kong next month.

Muskan (women's 5000m), Sonam Parmar (women's 5000m), who bagged the gold and silver, respectively, women's discus throw winner Amanat Kamboj, and women's pole vault winner B Sowndharya also made the grade.

Results: Men: 100m: 1. Abhay Singh (Rel, 10.41s), 2. Yuvraj Singh (J&K, 10.523), 3. Anshu Rajak (UP, 10.524); **5000m:** 1. Dinesh (UP, 14:36.5), 2. Ravi Yadav (Chg, 14:37.25), 3. Gurpreet Kamboj (Pun, 14:37.29). **Women: 100m:** 1. Nipam (UP, 11.53s), 2. Bhavana G (TN, 11.87), 3. Kajal Vaja (Guj, 11.88); **5000m:** 1. Muskan (Har, 16:42.88), 2. Sonam Parmar (IOCL, 16:47.89), 3. Sakshi Bhandari (Mah, 17:04.93); **Discus throw:** 1. Amanat Kamboj (Pun, 52.27m), 2. Riddhi (Har, 48.92), 3. Supriya Attri (NCOE Patiala, 48.07); **Pole vault:** 1. B Sowndharya (TN, 3.6m), 2. Chuki Birda (Raj, 3.4), 3. Shruti Rathaur (MP, 3.4)

BFC look to stay alive in title race

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BFC

GET, SET, GO: Bengaluru FC will seek home comfort when they take on Mumbai City at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday

Bengaluru: The 12th edition of the Indian Super League has entered its business end, with the curtailed season set to conclude in three weeks. There is no room for error now, with teams in the title race expected to go full throttle in the final stretch.

Teams like Bengaluru FC, who face third-placed Mumbai City at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday, are still in contention. There is plenty at stake for both sides. A win for Mumbai would take them to the top of the table, while the home side, currently

ISL

fifth, can close the gap to just two points behind leaders Mohun Bagan with a victory at the Fortress.

The Blues need to build momentum with a winning run and hope for favourable results elsewhere to keep their hopes alive. BFC coach Pep Munoz, who took charge a few weeks ago, described the match as a "final." "We are still in the race. If we have a good result tomorrow (against Mumbai), we will be there. It is also in our hands to play a good game and take three points," said the Spaniard. "It's our last home game and we want to do as best as we can. For me, tomorrow is a final and we have to win."

That, however, is easier said than done given Bengaluru's recent results. The former champions have managed just one point from their last two games, a loss to Kerala Blasters followed by a draw against East Bengal, setbacks that have pegged them back. Their home form has also been underwhelming, with the side still searching for only their second home win since beating Sporting Club Delhi in mid-Feb.

Making the task tougher is the quality of the opponents. Mumbai City, built to challenge for the title, will also be desperate to bounce back after suffering their first defeat of the season against FC Goa in their previous outing.

"We face a strong team that is made to win the league. They even have players who can change games from the bench. They are ahead of us on the table, and we have the chance to move closer to the top with a win. That is what we want," Munoz said.

If Bengaluru are to claim their fifth win of the season, India international Rahul Bheke, a former Mumbai player, will need to hold things together alongside goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu at the back. Munoz's men, who have conceded five goals in their last two matches, cannot afford to give Mumbai's attacking players — including Lallianzuala Chhangte, Brandon Fernandes and Jorge Diaz — a free run at goal.

Up front, the Blues will rely on Ryan Williams, Braian Sanchez and Sunil Chhetri to be clinical and give the team a realistic chance of taking all three points.

Indian men drub Canada, women lose

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Former champions India beat Canada 4-1 in their group tie to improve their chances of reaching the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup in Horsens, Denmark on Friday. However, Indian women lost to Denmark 1-3 in their Uber Cup Group A match.

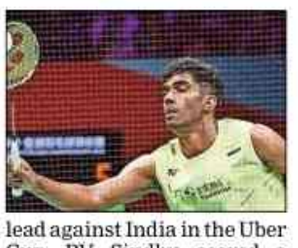
Apart from Lakshya Sen, the rest of the Indians won their matches comfortably. Lakshya started with a 21-18,

BADMINTON

19-21, 10-21 defeat to Victor Lai. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made it 1-1 with a 21-10, 21-11 victory against Jonathan Bing Tasan Lai and Kevin Lee.

Asian Championships silver medallist **Ayush Shetty** eased past Brian Yang 21-13, 21-17. India won the rubber as Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun made short work of Ty Alexander Lindeman and Nyl Yakura 21-7, 21-15. In the last match, Kidambi Srikanth downed Joshua Nguyen 21-17, 21-12.

A victory against Australia on Monday will ensure India a place in the quarterfinals. Meanwhile, Denmark secured an unassailable 3-1 lead against India in the Uber Cup. PV Sindhu scored a hard-fought victory against Line Christophersen 21-13, 18-21, 21-17.



But Unnati Hooda lost to Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt 12-21, 23-25, while the doubles pair of Priya Konjegbam and Shruti Mishra lost 17-21, 21-11, 21-23 to Amalie Cecillie Kudsk and Mette Werge. In a must-win tie, Tanvi Sharma faltered after winning the first game and lost to Amalie Schulz 21-19, 16-21, 16-21.

Results: Thomas Cup: India bt Canada 4-1 (Lakshya Sen lost to Victor Lai 21-18, 19-21, 10-21; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty bt Jonathan Bing Tsan Lai/Kevin Lee 21-10, 21-11; Ayush Shetty bt Brian Yang 21-13, 21-17; Harharan Amsakarunan/MR Arjun bt Ty Alexander Lindeman/Nyl Yakura 21-7, 21-15; Kidambi Srikanth bt Joshua Nguyen 21-17, 21-12); **Uber Cup: India lost to Denmark 1-3** (PV Sindhu bt Line Christophersen 21-13, 18-21, 21-17; Unnati Hooda lost to Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt 12-21, 23-25; Priya Konjegbam/Shruti Mishra lost to Amalie Cecillie Kudsk/Mette Werge 17-21, 21-11, 21-23; Tanvi Sharma lost to Amalie Schulz 21-19, 16-21, 16-21).

Alcaraz to miss French Open

Reigning two-time French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz said on Friday he will not play at this year's tournament as he recovers from a wrist injury. The Spaniard said the call to shut down his clay season was made after he received the results of tests on his right wrist, also ruling him out of the Italian Open.

"We have decided that the most prudent thing to do is to be cautious and not participate in Rome or Roland Garros," Alcaraz said on social media.

"This is a difficult time for me, but I'm sure we will come out of it stronger," Alcaraz added, saying that he and his team would monitor his recovery before deciding when and where he would return.

Alcaraz sustained the injury during the first round of the Barcelona Open last week, where he beat Otto Virtanen but subsequently pulled out of the tournament. The 22-year- old announced his withdrawal from the Madrid Masters on April 17, increasing concerns over whether he would be able to appear at the French Open. Alcaraz became the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam in January with his triumph at the Australian Open. AFP

Guru HC to take on Blue Star in the final

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Sandeep scored a brace to help Guru Hockey Club get past Bangalore United Hockey Club 3-1 in the semifinals of the KSHA 'A' division hockey league championship here on Friday. In the other last-four contest, Blue Star Hockey Club edged past the Bombers Hockey Club 2-1.

Ganapathi put the Bombers ahead in the 20th minute, but Poovanna and Karthik scored in quick succession to see Blue Stars through to the final. **Results**: Guru HC 3 (Sandeep 27, 57, Surya 54) bt Bangalore United HC 1 (Muthu Kumar 30); Blue Star HC 2 (Poovanna 25, Karthik 27) bt Bombers HC 1 (Ganapathi 20); **Today's matches: 3rd place:** Bombers HC vs Bangalore United HC 1.15 pm, **Final:** Blue Star HC vs Guru HC 2.45 pm.

CITY ROUND-UP

SREENITHI, AADHITHIYA ARE CHAMPIONS

Karnataka's Sreenithi Chowdary, who came through the qualifiers, capped her fine run in the championship by claiming the women's singles title in the TNR Memorial AITA tennis tournament at the Topspin Tennis Academy courts in Bengaluru on Friday. In the final, Sreenithi defeated the top seed, Hridayeshi, 6-3, 6-2. M Aadhithiya from Tamil Nadu bagged the men's singles title with a hard-fought victory over qualifier Gandharv G of Karnataka. Aadhithiya prevailed 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

Results (Finals): Men: Aadhithiya bt Gandharv Gaurav 7-5, 3-6, 6-2; **Women:** Sreenithi Chowdary bt Hridayeshi Pai 6-3, 6-2.

Bhullar, India's lone ranger

Moushumi.Bora @timesofindia.com

Singapore: **Gaganjeet Bhullar** wore a smile as he stepped off the 18th greens of the immaculate Serapong course with a birdie. Fairways found, tick, greens in regulation met, tick, putts converted, tick.

It's as if the first round was replayed on Friday ... until the 14th and 15th, where he dropped his first bogeys of the tournament.

GOLF

No problem. The 16th was the highlight of his day, with a downhill putt close to 30-35 feet. And the closing birdie on the final ensured he had added a three-under 68 to his four-under 67 to stay in contention at the halfway stage of the $2m Singapore Open, just three strokes behind the leader in tied-third place.

Bhullar's position near the top of the leaderboard at the International Series event told another story. The 11-time winner on the Asian Tour remains one of the last from his generation to consistently contend on the international stage. So, the question lingers: where is the next breakthrough golfer from India?

The numbers are sobering. At the Hero Indian Open this March, only three Indian players made the cut at the DLF. Months before that, at the DP World India Championship at DGC, just five advanced to the weekend rounds. These are tournaments played on home soil, in settings that should favour local players. Yet the gap between domestic promise and global success appears to be widening.

The veterans bowed out of the tournament but not before voicing their views. Jeev Milkha Singh, who withdrew with back issues, believes one should set high standards and be willing to work for it.

(The writer is in Singapore at the invitation of International Series)

Akshay prevails

Akshay Sharma carded an error-free eight-under 64 to claim his third DP World PGTI title, winning by a slender one-shot margin with an aggregate of 19-under 269, Haryana on Friday. Overnight leader Dhruv Sheoran (69-66-66-69) of Gurugram finished runner-up at 18-under 270.

Slow start for Shubhankar: Indian golfers Shubhankar Sharma and Yuvraj Sandhu endured slow starts at the Volvo China Open in Shanghai, finishing T-48 and 153rd respectively after the opening round.

Rose for India event: Major champion Justin Rose is set to make his I debut in India following his confirmation that he will compete in the DP World India Championship from Oct 15-18.

Beagles teams off to a winning start

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Beagles Basketball Club registered wins in both the boys and girls categories on the opening day of the state sub junior (U-13) championship here on Friday. The boys' team eased past DRDO 80-13 as Advaith led the charge with 16 points in a one-sided contest, where Beagles led 48-8 at the interval.

The girls' team handed Vimanapura BC 36-13 defeat

BASKETBALL

with Ayra and Lochama netting 13 and 12 points respectively for the winning team.

Mandya girls too got off to a good start with a 54-11 victory against Lakshyan.

Results: Boys: Vimanapura 46 (Taksha 12, Aarnav 10) bt AVBC 39 (Dhrupad 15, Neeran 13) HT 25-22; MCHS 68 (Darsh 16, Khanishk 8) bt IBBC 10 (Pramod 6) HT: 42-3; PPC 59 (Narrun 24 Daiwik 18) bt Mysuru 40 (Dhawan 16, Suhaan 13) HT: 28-20; CJC 55 (Vedik 22 Kushal 9) bt Southern Blues 30 (Reyansh 13) HT 16-16; Beagles BC 80 (Advaith 16) bt DRDO 13 (Sravan 7) HT: 48-8; MNK Rao 41 (Shreshta 11 Yansh 8) bt JSC 15 (Mohammed 5) HT: 25-7; Mandya 41 (Ishtartha 15, Jayanth 10) bt Devanga SC 40 (Naithani 15, Hridhaan 13) HT: 18-15; Rajamahal 35 (Abhinav 8) bt Appaiah 33 (Karthikeyan 14) HT: 16-14; Bangalore Vanguards 55 (Chayank 12, Takshak 11) bt BCYA 13 (Achyuth 04) HT 35-3; Mysuru 'B' 47 (Pratham 12) bt Chikkamagaluru 17 (Rollin 6) HT: 29-7; Kolar 34 (Manish 8) bt Dharwad 'B' 5. HT: 18-1; Hassan 18 (Pranay 6) bt Shivamogga 5 (Shree Arya 4) HT: 10-1; Kolar 39 (Manish 13, Yashmith 10) bt Kalaburagi 7 (Yadunan 2) HT: 22-5; VNSC 36 (Abhyuday 16) bt Pattabhi 31 (Druvik 7) HT: 17-18; **Girls:** Mandya 54 (Tejaswini 18, Harshitha 8) bt Lakshyan 11 (Aarika 3) HT: 34-5; Beagles BC 36 (Ayra 13, Lochama 12) bt Vimanapura 13 (Rishika 4) HT: 12-7; Young Orions 45 (Anushka 20) bt Orions BC 10 (Anargya 6) HT: 28-5; Viveks 29 (Ananth 9) bt Nettakallappa 14 (Trupti 4) HT: 19-12; Bangalore Sport 43 (Mananya 7) bt Bharath SU 17 (Rithika 17) HT: 29-7; Bangalore Vanguards 41 (Aarushi 13) bt JSC 5 (Aditi 2) HT: 29-2; VNSC 26 (Eshani Pramod 10) bt Appaiah 18 (Medha 5) HT: 10-7; Mysuru 'B' 18 (Vruddhi 11) bt Dharwad 'A' 5 (Unnathi 2) HT: 13-4; Hebbal BC 34 (Shruthi 24) bt YMMA 22 (Jagruthi 11) HT: 16-5.

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"IMPACT SUB IS A GOOD RULE BECAUSE IT GETS YOU INTO THE GAME. I'D RATHER DO WHAT I DID, BOWL THAT ONE OVER. IT GOT ME SOME EXPOSURE. IT COULD HAVE BEEN A LOT DIFFERENT IF I DIDN'T GET THOSE OPPORTUNITIES EARLY."
—Xavier Bartlett | PBKS pacer

KOHLI SINKS TITANS

Star Opener's 81 Trumps Sudharsan's Century As RCB Beat Gujarat By Five Wickets

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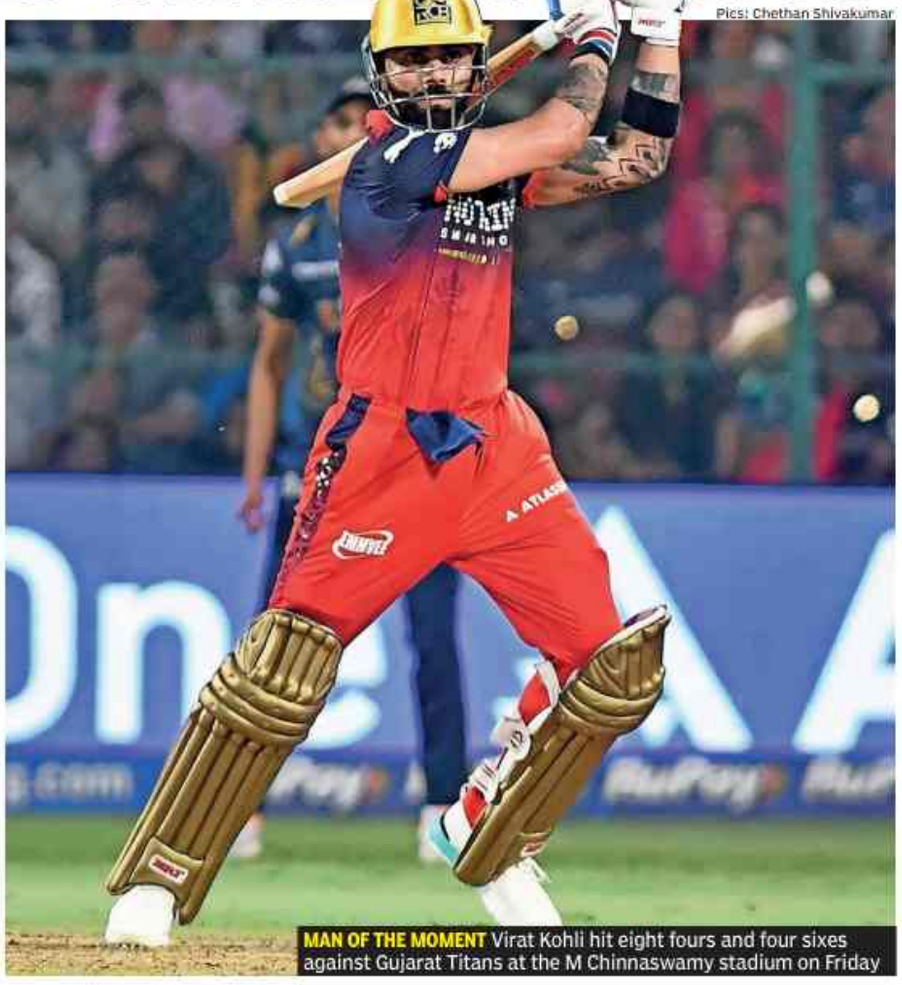
Pics: Chethan Shivakumar



MAN OF THE MOMENT Virat Kohli hit eight fours and four sixes against Gujarat Titans at the M Chinnaswamy stadium on Friday

Bengaluru: Under the bright M Chinnaswamy Stadium floodlights, Royal Challengers Bengaluru delivered a statement performance in their last league-stage outing at the venue. Chasing a daunting target, the defending champions leaned on a vintage partnership between Virat Kohli (81) and Devdutt Padikkal (55) to script a composed five-wicket win over the Gujarat Titans. Chasing 206, the home side overhauled the target with seven balls to spare. In the process, Sai Sudharsan's magnificent century — the cornerstone of GT's innings — was rendered a footnote in a contest that ultimately belonged to the batters.

The chase began with an early let-off that proved decisive. Kohli, who was yet to get off the mark, was dropped by Washington Sundar in the opening over. The seasoned star wasted no time in making Gujarat pay. He unfurled crisp boundaries off Kagiso Rabada, while Padikkal, after Jacob Bethell's early dismissal to Mohammed Siraj, settled in seamlessly and injected fluency into the innings. The duo ensured RCB ended the Powerplay at 58/1, laying the foundation for what would become a dominant chase.

IPL

If the early exchanges set the tone, the middle overs firmly tilted the game. Kohli blended control with aggression, reaching his 50 off 30 balls, while also bringing up his 300th IPL six with a towering strike off Rashid Khan. At the other end, Padikkal was equally fluent, racing to a half-century off just 20 deliveries and punishing anything loose. Their 115-run stand off 59 balls all but broke the back of the chase, taking RCB past the 100-mark in under nine overs and leaving the Titans searching for answers.

Padikkal's departure off Rashid's bowling briefly offered GT a glimmer, and

Sai Sudharsan

Kohli's dismissal for a superb 81 off 44 balls — an innings studded with eight fours and four sixes — gave the visitors a flicker of hope. But by then, the equation had eased considerably. Rajat Patidar contributed just 8, as RCB lost a couple of wickets in a brief stutter. But Tim David (10*) and Krunal Pandya (23*) ensured there would be no late drama. Krunal's clean striking, including a six and consecutive boundaries, brought the target within touching distance before he sealed the chase with calm authority, as RCB crossed the line.

Earlier, Titans rode a brilliant century from Sai Sudharsan to post 205/3 after RCB chose to bowl. The left-hander, rediscovering his touch after a lean patch, anchored the innings with 100 off 57 balls, laced with 11 fours and five sixes. RCB's new-ball pair of Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/31) and Josh Hazlewood (1/40) tested him early, but Sudharsan settled quickly, reaching 46 in the powerplay as GT made 57 without loss in six overs. He first brought up his fifty with a six and later survived a dropped return catch on 91 before reaching his third IPL hundred.

Shubman Gill made 32 in a 128-run stand for the first wicket, while Hazlewood eventually dismissed Sudharsan. Jason Holder's 25 off 10 in the final over helped GT cross 200.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	6	5	0	1	1.420	11
RCB	7	5	2	0	1.101	10
RR	7	5	2	0	0.790	10
SRH	7	4	3	0	0.820	8
CSK	7	3	4	0	0.118	6
DC	6	3	3	0	-0.130	6
GT	7	3	4	0	-0.790	6
MI	7	2	5	0	-0.736	4
LSG	7	2	5	0	-1.277	4
KKR	7	1	5	1	-0.879	3

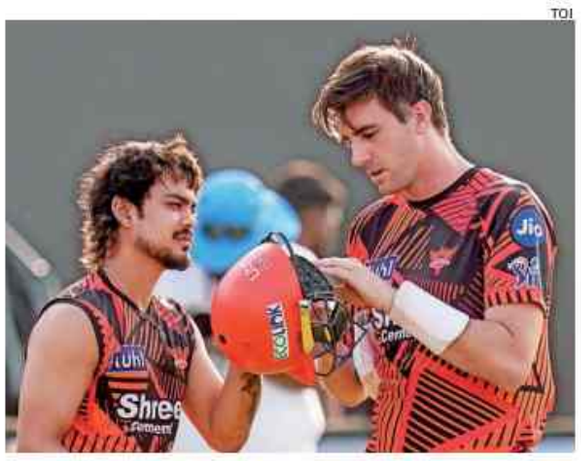
SCOREBOARD

GT: Sudharsan c & b Hazlewood 100, Gill c Padikkal b Suyash 32, Buttler c Hazlewood b Bhuvneshwar 25, Washington (not out) 19, Holder (not out) 23. **Extras: (LB-3, W-3) 6; Total: (3 wkts; 20 overs) 205. FoW:** 1-128, 2-160, 3-177. **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-31-1, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-40-1, Rasikh Salam 3-0-28-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-50-0, Romario Shepherd 1-0-17-0, Suyash Sharma 4-0-36-1.

RCB: Bethell c Shahrukh b Siraj 14, Kohli b Holder 81, Padikkal b Rashid 55, Patidar c Washington b Suthar 8, Jitesh c Suthar b Rashid 10, David (not out) 10, Krunal (not out) 23. **Extras: (LB-2, W-3) 5. Total (5 wkts; 18.5 overs) 206. FoW:** 1-26, 2-141, 3-154, 4-171, 5-173. **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 3-0-25-1, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-45-0, Jason Holder 3.5-0-35-1, Prasidh Krishna 2-0-31-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-49-2, Manav Suthar 2-0-19-1.

RR bowlers brace for hot SRH test

TOI



LEADERS PACK: Sunrisers Hyderabad's Ishan Kishan (left) in conversation with pace ace Pat Cummins

Mandakini.Shalya@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: That Rajasthan Royals are currently second on the points table is largely because of their bowling unit doing the heavy lifting. With the batting heavily dependent on the top three and the middle order appearing to be fragile, the bowlers have consistently stepped up. The ability to defend totals has played a big role in the Royals' campaign, which now moves to their primary home in Jaipur. It is here that the bowling unit will now face a major challenge against the firepower of Sunrisers Hyderabad's batting might at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Saturday.

The Royals will also be looking for redemption. In their previous meeting, SRH handed them a heavy 57-run defeat. The Royals bowling will be feeling the heat in hot conditions here if SRH's explosive top order of Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head and Ishan Kishan get going. In a major boost to SRH's chances, Pat Cummins will return to the playing XI and resume captaincy.

PREVIEWS

At the heart of Royals' dominance this season is the new-ball pair of Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger. Archer, with 68 wickets, is now Rajasthan Royals' all-time leading wicket-taker. Arguably the most lethal opening duo in the league, they have blended high pace with skills to move the ball around. Archer is cranking up speeds to 151 kmph with a late swing that leaves the best of openers searching for answers. From the other end, left-arm pacer Burger's prodigious seam movement has not allowed rival batters to break free.

Seamers Brijesh Sharma and Tushar Deshpande have also offered steady support to the lead pacers. Ravi Bishnoi's inclusion has added versatility to the Royals attack. Bishnoi seems to have rediscovered his mojo after being released by LSG following a poor season last year. His skiddy and rapid googlies have become a significant challenge for batters. By looking for wickets, he has maintained the pressure on the batting team in the middle overs.

King's culture club

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New Delhi: Punjab Kings' practice session had a certain looseness to it under the scorching afternoon sun here on Friday. The easy-going kind that often signals quiet confidence.

Priyansh Arya was among the first to take guard, his bat coming down with a crisp certainty that echoed through the nets. Beside him, Prabhsimran Singh moved with fluency, switching between controlled drives and some audacious pick-up shots while Cooper Connolly, unhurried and observant, slipped into rhythm as if he were calibrating his next match-winning innings.

It wasn't a loud session but it didn't need to be. There was enough in the body language – the stillness between shots, the clarity in execution — to suggest a batting unit that knows where it stands.

Arya, in particular, has added dynamism to Punjab's top order this season. There has been more intent in the way he has batted. Prabhsimran, too, seems to have rediscovered his balance, while Connolly's presence in the middle-order has lent the lineup a sense of assuredness.

On the other hand, Delhi Capitals have been inconsistent with the bat. While the likes of KL Rahul, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs and Sameer Rizvi have all contributed in patches, the unit has failed to click collectively. Opener Pathum Nissanka, despite getting starts, has been unable to convert them into substantial scores.

Captain Axar Patel, too, would want to shoulder greater responsibility with the bat. The all-rounder is also under scrutiny for some questionable tactical calls in the previous game.

Stubbs, one of DC's most reliable batters, said, "We haven't had the perfect innings, but we have won three out of six. Even when we have lost, we have still scored 190. We know there are a couple of small moments here and there that change the course of a match."

Fielding lapses have further compounded their struggles. Missed stumpings, botched run-out opportunities and a few dropped catches have cost them dear. Although the bowling unit has performed better than the batting, it has lacked the aggression and incisiveness needed to dominate opposition lineups. Against a formidable Punjab batting order, the Capitals' bowlers will need to be far more disciplined and proactive.

Rajesh Mehta

IN-FORM: Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel (left) and KL Rahul during a training session on their home turf

Assam scientist among 2026 Breakthrough Prize winners

B B Goswami | TNN

TOI

BRAINIAC: Dr Atanu Nath

Silchar: Dr Atanu Nath, an assistant professor of physics at Tihu College in Assam's Nalbari district and a native of Lala town, has been named among the recipients of the 2026 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, widely considered the 'Oscars of Science'.

Nath is part of the international Muon g-2 collaboration involving CERN, Brookhaven National Laboratory and Fermilab. The prize recognises decades of work on the magnetic behaviour of the muon, a subatomic particle whose properties could unlock physics beyond the Standard Model.

The assistant professor shares the honour with more than 370 scientists globally, including around 11 from India, and is the first scientist from the northeast to receive the award. The ceremony was held on April 18 in Santa Monica, California.

Instituted in 2012 by the Breakthrough Prize Foundation, the award carries a purse of $3 million and honours advances in fundamental science. The foundation was established by technology leaders including Sergey Brin, Mark Zuckerberg, Priscilla Chan, Yuri Milner and Anne Wojcicki.

The award-winning research centres on measuring the 'g-2' factor of the muon, describing how it behaves like a tiny magnet in a magnetic field. Scientists track whether experimental measurements deviate from theoretical predictions, a gap that could indicate new particles or forces.

The experiment began in the 1960s at CERN, followed by high-precision measurements at Brookhaven in the US. The latest phase at Fermilab has produced results that have drawn global attention since 2021.

The assistant professor of physics at Tihu College contributed to the Fermilab effort, including work on the laser calibration system used to ensure experimental precision, and served as a Run Coordinator during a major phase of the experiment. Born and raised in Lala in Assam's Hailakandi district, Dr Atanu Nath is the son of retired school teachers Birendra Kumar Nath and Binata Rani Nath. He graduated from Gurucharan College, Silchar, and pursued higher studies at the S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

He earned a PhD from the University of Naples Federico II in Italy, specialising in quantum chromodynamics. He returned to India in 2020 as a postdoctoral researcher at IIT-Guwahati, working on neutrino experiments including DUNE and NOvA.

Nath joined Tihu College in 2022 and has continued teaching and research. Tihu College recently felicitated him for the achievement.

Das allegedly faced attacks from TMC in '21

▸ Continued from page 1

Significantly, Das is a Dalit and had allegedly faced attacks from TMC cadres in the violence that followed the 2021 elections in Bengal.

The appointments are seen as part of a long-awaited overhaul of Niti Aayog, where Bery, a surprise pick, has been at the helm for four years. On several occasions, the Modi administration was seen to have bypassed Bery and dealt directly with the members or the CEO.

Lahiri will bring his training as an economist and a policymaker to Niti Aayog, which has a part-time CEO after BVR Subrahmanyam's exit last month. Lahiri is a career economist who taught at Delhi School of Economics and worked at the World Bank and IMF before returning to the finance ministry in the late 1990s. He then went on to head the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and was the chief economic adviser and subsequently a member of the 15th Finance Commission.

India tops global AI hiring surge, demand spreads beyond metros

59.5% Jump Signals Shift From Pilots To Real-World Deployment

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Bengaluru continues to anchor India's AI ecosystem with one of the highest concentrations of AI talent globally at around 3%

New Delhi: India has emerged as the fastest-growing market for AI hiring globally, with job postings rising 59.5% year-on-year, outpacing major economies such as US, UK, France and Germany, according to LinkedIn's AI Labor Market Report 2026. The data signals a decisive shift from pilot-stage adoption to large-scale deployment of AI across industries, alongside a widening geographic spread of opportunities beyond traditional technology hubs.

While Bengaluru continues to anchor India's AI ecosystem with one of the highest concentrations of AI talent globally at around 3%, hiring momentum is increasingly diffusing across cities. Hyderabad recorded a 51% rise in AI job postings, while Vijayawada saw a 45.5% increase, underscoring the growing role of tier-2 and tier-3 cities in the country's AI expansion.

Compared to India's 59.5%, UK's national AI job growth was 32.3%, US's 24.7%, Germany's 55.2% and France's 9.7%. The surge is being driven by rapid adoption of AI across organisations of all sizes. Large enterprises continue to employ the highest share of AI talent, accounting for roughly 4% of their workforce, as they invest in infrastructure, governance frameworks and enterprise-scale deployment. At the same time, small and medium businesses (SMBs) are emerging as a key growth engine, bridging the gap between experimentation and full-scale implementation through more agile and cost-efficient adoption strategies.

A notable trend in hiring is the sharp pivot towards applied AI capabilities. The report notes that the fastest-growing skills among SMBs, including AI Agents, AI Productivity and Azure AI Studio, "suggest a focus on pragmatic, productivity-enhancing uses of AI", signalling a shift towards deployment-ready talent over research-led roles.

Sectoral data indicates that AI talent is expanding even in traditional industries. In manufacturing, the report highlights that AI engineering talent in India has grown fourfold, even as hiring demand softens, noting this divergence "may reflect firms embedding AI into existing workflows rather than expanding dedicated AI hiring".

At the same time, entry-level hiring trends point to early structural shifts. The report underlines that entry-level hiring "has fallen broadly in line with overall hiring", while in AI-augmented roles it has "softened more sharply."

Noida plans mega health outreach to industrial workers

Noida: The district administration is attempting a mega outreach to industrial workers after protests on April 13 underlined the hard conditions they are forced to live in because of very low wages. On Friday, it announced medical camps across the district — where an estimated 13 lakh people are employed in 12,000 industrial units — on May 1, which the world marks as Workers' Day.

The administration will set up 201 medical camps across the city while all govt hospitals and 22 private hospitals will provide free consultations, diagnostic tests, surgeries and medicines throughout the day. The administration will also introduce creches in factories and industrial units that lack the facility. — **Ashni Dhaor**

Pollution affecting reproductive timelines for Indian women: Study

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Mumbai: Researchers at the International Institute for Population Sciences found that exposure to high levels of air pollution and contaminated groundwater is disrupting the reproductive timelines of Indian women.

The researchers combined data of hundreds of thousands of women from the National Family Health Survey (2019-2021) with satellite-derived PM2.5 data to establish air pollution links. They pulled in govt records on groundwater quality and used specialised satellite imagery to map the ratio of green cover to bare land across different neighbourhoods.

The study, published as an unedited manuscript in the journal Nature, found that the link between air pollution and disrupted reproductive timing is strongest in northern India, where pollution levels are highest. While north and central India naturally have a slightly later average age for the start of menstruation (13.7 years compared with 12.5 years in the northeast), toxic air and groundwater are pushing these biological timelines even further from the norm.

The sample size for this study included 1,79,972 women aged 15-24 years for menarche and 2,97,811 women aged 30-49 years for menopause. Professor Aparajita Chattopadhyay, author of the study from the Department of Population & Development, said that while menopause is occurring earlier on average due to environmental pollution, this trend does not necessarily apply to women who undergo hysterectomies at a relatively younger age. "In those cases, timing is mainly influenced by other [social or medical] factors rather than environmental exposure," she noted.

Make bride, groom birth dates must in invitations, rules Maha panel

Mumbai: Maharashtra state commission for protection of child rights has decided to suggest to state govt that mentioning date of birth of bride and groom be made mandatory on wedding invitations as a move to curb child marriage.

The panel said awareness campaigns should be intensified to prevent child marriage and child sexual abuse.

Commission member Sanjay Lakhe Patil said they have ordered a joint probe into 85 suspected cases of minor girls becoming mothers, with 15 of them reported from Solapur district, terming the issue a serious violation of child rights.

At a hearing on April 23 under the chairmanship of Sanjay Vishnu Puranik, the panel reviewed the cases and directed district administration to initiate strict action. Lakhe Patil said the matter was "extremely sensitive and disturbing" and required urgent intervention.

According to a preliminary report, some cases indicate instances of child marriage and sexual abuse, while serious lapses by local health officials and other authorities have also come to light.

The state administration has been asked to submit a concrete action plan within one to one and a half months and take preventive measures to ensure such incidents do not recur. PTI

Malegaon blast accused cleared in '16 seeks govt's stand on HC order

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Nashik: Noorul Huda Samsudoha, among the 13 people who faced trial in the 2006 Malegain blasts case and among the nine discharged in 2016, Friday questioned if govt would challenge the latest HC order discharging four people who were arrested later by NIA, as was done in their case.

"We were arrested and tortured. No one listened to us when we were in custody. Govt challenged our discharge order, and it is still pending with the high court. I want to know if govt will also challenge the latest court order," said Samsudoha, a casual worker now in his early 50s.

"The court had given us a clean chit on the basis of investigations of NIA, which arrested four others and filed a chargesheet against them. Those four people have been discharged now. We want justice for the people killed in the blast," he said.

On Sept 8, 2006, four bomb explosions in Malegaon had left 31 people dead and 312 injured. ATS arrested Samsudoha and eight others — all Muslims — in 2006, while four Hindus were arrested later by NIA.

Kerala sees sudden spike in summer snakebite incidents

More Snakes Spotted At House Where Child Died Of Snakebite Last Week

TNN & Agencies

T'puram/Kottayam/Thrissur: An eight-year-old boy and a 42-year-old woman died following snakebite in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha, respectively, while a teenager suffered a bite in the state capital on Thursday. Amid rising temperatures across the state, multiple snakebite cases have been reported, with three deaths, two of them children, recorded in the past two weeks.

Dakshal, a Class III student, died after a snake bit him while he was sleeping at his house in Chirayinkeezhu, early Thursday.

Seleena, wife of Najim, collapsed and died at Kayamkulam taluk hospital after she suffered the bite at a wedding reception venue at Kottukulangara in Alappuzha in the evening.

While Dakshal's family members alleged delay in attending to him at Chirayinkeezhu taluk hospital, Seleena's blood test failed to detect any venom.

Dakshal was sleeping in a room with his grandmother Leela. Around 3am, the boy woke up complaining of pain in his feet. On inspection, his parents noticed bite marks. Neighbours captured an Indian cobra from inside the house. The house is located near backwaters and is surrounded by dense vegetation.

Seleena collapses at hosp

Seleena was rushed to a nearby private clinic and later to the Kayamkulam taluk hospital. The blood tests done there did not detect any venom, but she collapsed in the restroom.

Durga, 18, was bitten by a snake in Pothenkode while returning home from her grandmother's house Thursday. Sources there said her condition is currently stable.

More snake spotted

During a search, forest department officials have spotted five more snakes on the premises of a house in Thrissur where eight-year-old Aljo died after a snakebite on April 17. The boy and his brother were bitten while they were asleep in their bedroom.

Mentally ill teen's 'imitation act' with knife leads to 8-yr-old sister's death

Nishikant Karlikar | TNN

Thane: A 16-year-old boy with schizophrenia has been booked for culpable homicide after he fatally stabbed his eight-year-old sister while mimicking a sword-fighting video he had been watching on his mobile phone, police said.

The incident occurred around 2.30 am on April 15 at the family's residence in Amrutnagar, Mumbra. The girl's father, a college teacher, was woken by her cries and found his son holding a knife and his daughter bleeding profusely from her neck. She was rushed to Bilal Hospital and later transferred to civic-run Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital. Despite ICU care for 4 days, she died on April 19. The post-mortem report cited liquefactive necrosis of the brain — a complication arising from the stab wound — as the cause of death.

The accused told the police he had been watching a video featuring a man fighting with a sword; while replicating the moves, the knife struck his sister. The father informed police that his son has for the last couple of years been undergoing treatment for schizophrenia, a severe mental health disorder that impairs how a person thinks, feels and behaves, causing them to lose touch with reality. The father initially declined to file a complaint, but the Mumbra police registered the case on behalf of the state. The boy has been booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which pertains to culpable homicide not amounting to murder, on the grounds that the act was negligent and carried out without any intent to kill.

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 98 BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 38 | PRICE ₹6

"Play, friendships and everyday life must not be taken over by screens," says Norway PM Jonas Gahr Stoere as his govt plans to bring a bill to ban kids from using social media until they turn 16

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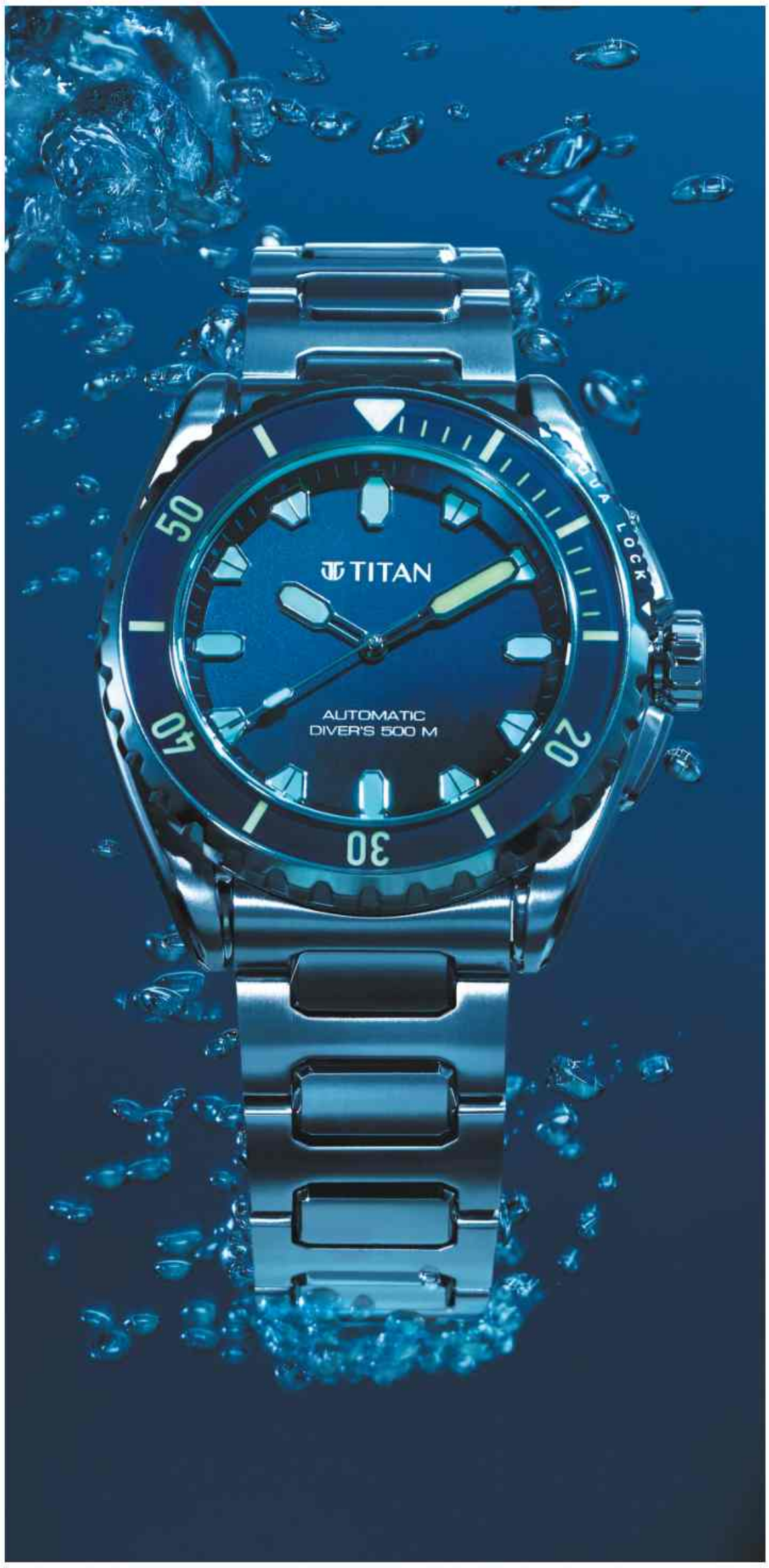

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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF BANGALORE TIMES |

VIRAT KOHLI SLAMS 81 OFF 44 BALLS AS RCB (206/5) OVERHAUL GUJ TITANS (205/3) WITH 7 BALLS TO SPARE, MOVE TO 2ND IN TABLE 21

Both Modi & Didi claim win after massive Ph-1 turnout

PM: Trust Trumps Fear; Decisive Victory For BJP

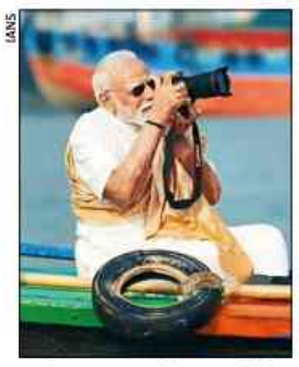
Kolkata: The record turnout in the first phase of Bengal polls has "sounded the bugle" for the end of Trinamool's "maha jungle raj", PM Narendra Modi said on Friday, linking people's participation as an endorsement of BJP's slogan of "bharosa" over "bhay" (trust over fear), **reports Rohit Khanna**.

Accusing Trinamool of "crushing the temple of democracy" in the state, Modi said the second phase of polling will put the "victory flag on that temple".

FULL COVERAGE: P 16 & 18

Addressing a rally in Jadavpur, Modi said the 92.9% turnout was the highest in the state since Independence. "There will be districts where TMC will not get a single seat. BJP's win will be massive and decisive," he said.

IANS



As the PM posted images of his boat ride on the Hooghly on Friday, CM Mamata Banerjee said Modi could do so because the river's waters are clean, unlike the Yamuna in Delhi

"The country has never seen such a turnout... Everyone is now talking about the huge support for BJP in Bengal. People, whether a small shop owner or a big trader, have overcome fear," Modi said. "Not a single vote should be wasted on April 29."

▶Dying lamp, P 16

BJP Won't Get Even Half Its 2021 Tally: Mamata

Kolkata: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday claimed the high turnout in Phase-I was a decisive mandate against both BJP and SIR and predicted that the saffron party would not win even half the 77 seats it held after 2021, **reports Suman Chakraborti**. "Forget about Bengal, we will dethrone you from Delhi as well," Banerjee said at a rally in Howrah.

▶24L more voted in Ph-I compared to 2021, P 10

Banerjee argued that the overwhelming turnouts in districts like South Dinajpur and Cooch Behar — despite lakhs of deletions — proved voters had rejected the central govt. "The places where we were lagging, yesterday we moved ahead. BJP will lose in many seats," she said, declaring TMC had already "sealed" its victory across 152 constituencies in the first phase.

PTI

CM Mamata Banerjee greets supporters during a roadshow in Kolkata on Friday

"Yesterday, in rural Bengal, 93% were against you, Modi-babu, because of the atrocities committed in the name of SIR. Nearly 300 have died; even yesterday four people died in the voting line," she said.

▶Focus on Manipur, P 16

SC: High voter turnout in Bengal and TN true signs of democracy

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday hailed the record 92% voter turnout in the first phase of West Bengal assembly elections as a sign of robust democratic process in the country, after dealing with petitions challenging the special intensive revision, and deploying judicial officers for a fair scrutiny.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi made the remark after TMC MP and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee, a vociferous opponent of SIR, said, "One good thing happened. Record 92% voting happened because all migrant labourers rushed to the state to cast their vote in the fear that if they didn't, their names would be struck off the electoral roll".

▶People realised, P 16

SC declines pleas to fast-track tribunals

SC declined pleas seeking expedited tribunal hearings on Bengal voter roll deletions, directing litigants to the Calcutta HC. The court said its April 13 order covers controversy related to pending appeals. TMC MP and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee told SC there were around 27 lakh appeals pending. P16

Fresh notice in RS seeking CEC removal

MPs in Rajya Sabha have submitted a fresh notice to the RS Secretary General seeking to move a motion for the removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar on the ground of "proven misbehaviour". The opposition has levelled 9 new charges against Kumar in the notice, signed by "73" MPs. P15

Ex-CEA Lahiri to be Niti Aayog VC, IISER's Das a member

New Delhi: Former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri is set to be named the new vice-chairman of Niti Aayog, replacing Suman Bery, with Gobardhan Das, director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, to be nominated as a member of the govt's premier think-tank, **reports Sidhartha**.

Lahiri (in pic) is currently a BJP MLA from Balurghat, but is not contesting the 2026 assembly polls. Das, a former JNU professor, had contested from Purbasthali Uttar constituency in the 2021 state polls as a BJP candidate. The two appointments come amid polls in West Bengal with the second round of voting on Wednesday and will be seen as an overture to the electorate.

▶Attacks from TMC, P 22

RBI scraps licence of Paytm Payments Bank

RBI on Friday cancelled Paytm Payments Bank's banking licence with immediate effect, prohibiting it from carrying out any banking business and setting in motion the process for winding up, even as the entity had already been reduced to a run-off institution after earlier curbs. RBI said it will apply for winding up of the bank before HC. The broader payments ecosystem linked to the platform continues outside the bank. P19

1st batch of Bnei Menashe in Israel

Around 240 members of the Bnei Menashe from Mizoram landed at Ben Gurion Airport Friday, the first such group to reach Israel. Israel has granted them citizenship to live in Nazareth. India has around 7,000 members of Bnei Menashe, who regard themselves as the lost tribe of Israel. TNN

Wheat procurement target raised 15%

Govt has increased the wheat procurement target to 34.5 million tonnes, 15% higher than what it had set for the current Rabi marketing season. This comes amid indications that more farmers may opt to sell their produce to govt at MSP since mandi prices are less. TNN

Ban on series on Lawrence Bishnoi

I&B ministry issued an advisory to an OTT platform to not release docuseries 'Lawrence of Punjab', slated for release on April 27, said Punjab Police. Inputs suggested that it "posed significant risk of glorifying organised crime and notorious criminals". TNN

KIA to be one of four airport hubs, easing international air travel

New Delhi: Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is part of India's plan to develop four airport hubs to enable seamless transfers mirroring those in Dubai, Doha, Singapore and Frankfurt, **reports Saurabh Sinha**. While the hub-and-spoke model will roll out first at Delhi IGIA from June 1, the aviation ministry has begun work on the other three: KIA, Mumbai and Rajkot Hirasar.

Once the infrastructure is in place, passengers can fly into these airports from multiple cities within India and then connect smoothly to international flights.

▶Aviation ministry, P 15

HUB-&-SPOKE MODEL

Outbound flyers

- At **spoke airport, flyers will get two boarding passes** (D for domestic and I for international) for two flights
- **Customs and immigration** at 1st point of exit from India

Inbound flyers

- Customs, immigration at **final point of entry** into India
- **Baggage** of both inbound and outbound passengers **transferred seamlessly** through airside operations
- Combination flights not permitted for now; **separate aircraft for domestic and int'l segments** of hub-and-spoke ops

(Source: Aviation ministry)

Poacher nicked a tiger cam that clicked him, held

Shivamogga: The growing threat of poachers stealing surveillance equipment used for wildlife monitoring has come into sharp focus after a 58-year-old man was arrested in Kargal, a town in Shivamogga district.

Police said Roichan of Banukuli was caught after he allegedly stole a high-tech camera trap installed by the forest department for the National Tiger Census during an illegal hunting expedition. The device, set up in the Kallurashi area in Biligaru section, reportedly went missing after its flash went off as he passed by. But he did not know another hidden camera was recording him. TNN

▶Second camera, P 8

El Nino in May-June to hit temp, rainfall: WMO

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New Delhi: Predicting a climatic condition that may further aggravate adverse weather in South Asia, including India, World Meteorological Organisation Friday said an El Nino event is expected to develop as early as May-July, impacting "global temperature and rainfall patterns". Earlier, this condition was expected to develop in the second half of the monsoon season (Aug-Sept).

El Nino events, which typically occur every 2-7 years and last around 9-12 months, affect temperature and rain patterns in different regions and typically have a warming effect on the global climate. Amid growing risk of El Nino, IMD has already predicted "below normal" monsoon rainfall in India.

▶WMO warns, P 15

City lakes run dry; time to clean up

With Bengaluru seeing temperatures above 35°C, many lakes have dried up or lost water by almost 5 feet. Activists say this is a natural seasonal pattern, not a crisis. This is the time to restore lakes. The dry phase allows for desilting, removing weeds and plastic, **reports Hamsaveni M.** P3

Top 5 Indian IT firms shed nearly 7,000 jobs in FY26

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Bengaluru: Headcount is passé; outcomes are the new currency.

India's top five IT services firms slipped back into net workforce contraction in FY26, reversing the modest hiring recovery a year earlier, as demand uncertainty, delayed decision-making and AI-led efficiency gains weighed on headcount.

▶India tops AI hirings, P 22

TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech and Tech Mahindra together reduced their workforce by 6,981 employees in FY26, compared with net additions of 12,718 in FY25. The numbers are less about a collapse and more about a recalibration. The traditional IT model — where revenue growth was closely tied to headcount expansion — is beginning to break, analysts said.

TOTAL HEADCOUNT UP

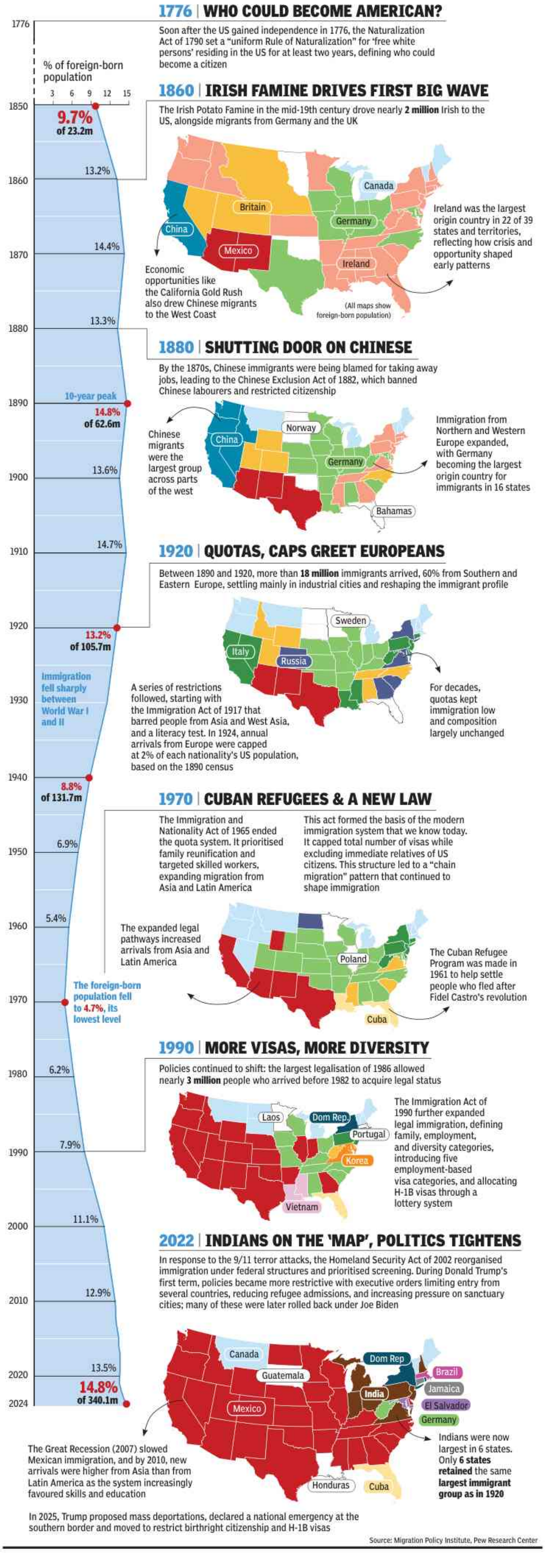
- Job cuts **in 2024** were brutal, at nearly **70,000**; this year, 7,000 employees axed
- Nasscom data shows total **industry headcount rose by 1.35 lakh in 2026**, marginally higher than previous year's addition of 1.33 lakh
- Hiring now focuses on **AI-native talent, problem solvers & specialists in data, cloud, and cybersecurity**

▶Problem solvers, P 19

USA@250

From Irish to Indians, how migrants shaped America

Today's anti-immigration sentiment in the US echoes past waves. **Chandni Tekwani** traces how these shifts have reshaped the country over nearly 250 years



Source: Migration Policy Institute, Pew Research Center